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Trade and Industry

6 May 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

This week's home feature marks the vesting of British Aerospace as one of the world's greatest airframe manufacturers.
See page 214.

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Editorial
Room 439 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Telex 8811074 answer back DT1HQ G LONDON

Editorial inquiries		01-215 5730
Editor	Alan Williams	01-215 5653
Deputy editor	Gillian Samuel	01-215 5620 01-215 5654
Home news and technology	Peter Curtis Jennifer Clarke	01-215 3019 01-215 5074
European community and overseas trade	Alex Mayne-Reid Geoff Heaford	01-215 3016 01-215 3006
Art and pictures	Bob Priestley	01-215 3118
Business manager	John Bentley	01-215 5655
Circulation control	Christine Swinyard	01-215 5021

Advertisements
T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED

Display sales office manager	Mike White	01-242 6264
Classified sales		01-405 4743

Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

NEB makes £51.3m profit

Before tax, the National Enterprise Board made a profit of £51.3 million on its interests in its first year of operation.

The figure was revealed in the board's annual report published this week (3 May) and reflects the operations of its two major subsidiaries, British Leyland, which made a profit of £70.5 million, and Rolls-Royce, which made a loss of £22 million.

During the period under review, NEB had stakes in 13 companies but, by the end of April this year, had increased this to 24 companies.

The annual report also shows that NEB invested a total of £75.3 million in the form of public dividend capital and loans from the National Loan Fund.

In its current financial year, NEB has a budget of £275 million.

Industrial aid reaches £240m

Aid totalling about £240 million under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972 was offered to companies other than shipbuilders in 1976-77 for investment projects to a total value well in excess of £1,500 million. The government's industrial strategy in general, and selective financial assistance in particular, are now at the point of take-off, Kenneth Sharp, head of the government's accountancy service, said on Wednesday.

'The number of cases of selective financial assistance,' Mr Sharp said, 'are likely to be even higher this year than last year, which represents a very substantial effort to assist the reinvigoration of British industry to which the government is firmly committed.'

Safer oil lamps

Unsafe oil lamps – unstable, leaky, sometimes flimsy – present a fire hazard and safety regulations are to be introduced to prevent their sale, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced on Tuesday.

The proposed regulations, for domestic oil lamps, will deal with the construction, design and safe burning and include provisions relating to stability, safety on overturning, surface temperature, performance in a draught, resistance of fuel containers to corrosion and the emission of carbon monoxide. Instructions for safe usage will also have to be supplied with each lamp.

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has circulated for comment a draft of the proposed regulations to be made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961, setting out safety requirements for oil lamps intended for indoor domestic use, including hurricane lamps suitable for this purpose. The regulations, based on the provisions of British standard 2049: 1976, would be made as soon as possible, said Mr Fraser.

Bread price rise

Bread prices are to rise by 1p on all 28oz loaves and ½p on 14oz non-standard and 8-10oz loaves from next Monday (9 May). The increase in statutory maximum retail prices, contained in an order laid before parliament by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, are necessary because of increased costs.

Mistaken concern for the shiny bits

'Design decisions are not fundamentally different from other management decisions, they are taken in the light of the available information and will prove either right or wrong according to the accuracy of that information,' said the Duke of Gloucester in his opening address to this week's terotechnology conference, Tero 77 – Profit through care. The four-day working conference, which is being held at Grosvenor House, marked the culmination of the Department of Industry's campaign to promote the principles and practice of terotechnology in industry to minimise total cost.

The Duke of Gloucester explained how he, as an architect, viewed his role in the design process and remarked that it has been estimated that currently the UK spends £5,000 million each year on maintaining buildings, an amount that could very usefully be saved and put to better uses. In all probability, a large part of that money was being spent because of errors made in the original financial planning decisions, he continued. Terotechnology would provide a measurement with which to make those calculations in future. To make it accurate it was necessary to correlate more effectively the data on existing buildings and thus evaluate the effect of previous decisions on today's running costs.

Terotechnology applied not only to buildings, but was relevant to any manufactured product and, he said, in respect of the rust proofing of motor cars, 'encouraging motorists to wash the shiny bits of their cars and to ignore the out-of-sight areas, which are rusting away, is another malpractice that has resulted from a design policy founded on the belief that cars are sold in the showroom and not on the road.'

Irish Sea luxury ferry

British Rail Sealink's new passenger/car ferry *St Columba* carried its first fare-paying passengers this week between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire, Ireland. The 8,000-ton vessel is acknowledged to be the most luxurious ship to operate on the Irish sea.

It is nearly twice the size of its predecessors, carrying 335 cars and 2,400 passengers as well as ro-ro freight and other goods at a service speed of nearly 20kt, which will mean journey times of between three and three and a half hours.

Perhaps because it is the shortest route the Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire service carries the most traffic across the Irish Sea. British Rail chairman Peter Parker said on the inaugural voyage that already this year's first quarter traffic had risen 40 per cent in passenger carryings on the route compared with the same period in 1976, with 45 per cent more cars and 50 per cent in lorry and trailer traffic.

The *St Columba* will provide two sailings each way every 24 hours, with a night turnround at Holyhead at 0300.

EUROPE

EEC-Lebanon agreement signed

A co-operation agreement between the EEC and the Lebanon was signed in Brussels on Tuesday (3 May).

The agreement provides for economic and technical co-operation between the EEC and the Lebanon (with financial aid from the community) as well as preferential trade arrangements.

Last October the EEC concluded co-operation agreements with the other eastern

Mediterranean Arab (Mashraq) countries Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The agreement with the Lebanon completes the series planned under the community's 'overall approach' to relations with states bordering the Mediterranean.

Employment committee meets

Employment prospects in the community up to 1980 is one of the main items due to be discussed in Brussels at yesterday's (5 May) meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment. The discussions will be based on a 1976 report prepared at the request of the commission by a group of independent experts.

A review of the social fund is also on the committee's agenda. Recent commission proposals for reviewing the fund are expected to be taken by EEC ministers at a social affairs council towards the end of June.

Commissioner Antonio Giolitti, who is responsible for co-ordinating community financial instruments, is expected to make a statement to the committee.

NCB loan approved

Approval of a loan of £18 million to the National Coal Board under article 54 of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) treaty was announced by the commission on Monday.

The loan will contribute to the purchase of movable underground plant and equipment for use in coal mines and will be disbursed in phase with the board's purchases.

STATISTICS

Official reserves climb

UK official reserves rose by $512 million in April. At the end of the month the reserves stood at $10,130 million.

OVERSEAS

Export prospects 'look good'

Jim Wilks, chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, speaking to the British Electrical Systems Association in Birmingham on Tuesday, said that he thought Britain's export prospects looked good.

Giving reasons for his belief, Mr Wilks said that the UK's balance of payments was showing a steady improvement underlying the ups and downs of the monthly trade figures. The deficit on the current balance had dropped from £536 million in the third quarter of 1976 to £368 million in the fourth quarter, and £293 million in the first quarter of 1977. The UK had had two consecutive good monthly results with a surplus of £31 million in February and an estimated deficit of only £12 million in March.

Mr Wilks pointed out that invisible exports from banking, insurance, shipping and tourism reached about £12.5 billion in 1976 and were confidently forecast to be a good deal higher this year.

Stressing the benefit for individual firms through expanding their exports, Mr Wilks said that it had been demonstrated that exporting could be very profitable; that it could repay handsomely the efforts and resources invested in it, and could be a far more reliable basis for a steady growth of turnover, profits and employment. He emphasised that small firms as well as large ones could be effective exporters and pointed out that currently over 2,300 firms throughout the country were taking part in Export Year.

Dell visits Austria

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, started a visit to Austria on 4 May to discuss trade and economic issues.

Mr Dell is having talks with the Austrian Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Josef Staribacher, and also with the president of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr Dell is calling on Federal President, Dr Kirchschläger, the president of the Nationalrat and the vice-president of the Austrian National Bank.

He returns to the UK tomorrow (7 May).

ECGD guaranteed credit up

Provisional figures given by Derek Smith, head of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's comprehensive guarantee group, on Monday showed the value of exports insured by ECGD were running at an annual rate of about £12,000 million, compared with a total of £8,391 million for 1975–76. Speaking to the London chamber of commerce export seminar, Mr Smith said there was an increasing volume of business from exporters seeking credit limit approvals on their overseas buyers. Credit limit casework facing ECGD's underwriters with over 5,000 submissions per week was about 20 per cent up on last autumn's levels.

The figures of export performance were most encouraging, Mr Smith said, and ECGD was well aware of the importance of supporting them with a prompt credit limit service. Mr Smith continued, 'Inevitably, however, the steady rise in business makes it more difficult to give a prompt service – and this is where our policyholders can help us help them.'

Well over a quarter of the credit limit applications ECGD received could be accommodated within the improved discretionary limits introduced last year. These limits, he said, allowed exporters to take on more export business under their policies without reference to ECGD at all: up to £5,000 for each buyer against a satisfactory up-to-date report on him from a bank or status agency, together with scope to raise limits well above that level in the light of satisfactory trading experience.

The doubling of the previous discretionary provisions gave exporters maximum flexibility to conduct their day-to-day affairs. 'But,' Mr Smith went on, 'our regional offices have found that many exporters are making insufficient use of their discretion by seeking credit limit approvals from the department where they need not do so, because the business in question is well within their discretionary limits. This is bound to cause unnecessary delay – particularly if it overloads the ECGD credit limit service to the disadvantage of everyone.'

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Vietnam visitors

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, greets Do Hoang Phu (right), leader of the first trade delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 3 May. In the centre is Le Ky Giai, acting chargé d'affaires.

Home news

Steel investment 'greatest in Europe'

'Over £1,400 million has been spent on new investment in steel over the last three years,' said Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, at a lunch to mark the 10th anniversary of the British Steel Corporation on 28 April. 'BSC's current rate of expenditure on fixed assets in the UK is running at record levels of some £600 million a year and provision has been made for expenditure of over £3,000 million in the period up to 1981, the greatest steel investment programme in Europe. The decision to spend £835 million on the development of Port Talbot is of particular importance.

'But users are now, or soon will be, benefiting from a whole range of investments, aimed at the market, such as the stainless and electrical steels developments and the expansion of pipemaking facilities vital for the North Sea. It is vital to have a steel industry which meets the needs of its UK customers and can also take a profitable share of the export market.

'We must also roll back the flood of imports; as a nation we cannot afford to import steel which can perfectly well be made here. We have to look for an adequate return on the enormous public investment which has been made in BSC. The nation is willing to wait for this, but not indefinitely.

'The steel industry of Europe is now facing a particularly difficult time. Like other countries we stand to gain from common action. We are therefore prepared to co-operate fully with our European partners in the short-term. We will also co-operate in longer-term measures to strengthen the European steel industry as a whole. But we are not prepared to accept any proposals that would result in our having to shoulder other countries' problems either by foregoing employment opportunities or markets which would otherwise be available to us.'

The year ahead in consumer protection

Clearly-marked prices, consumer credit and more consumer protection were among the subjects selected for next year's action, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told the Society of Consumer Services Officers in London on 26 April.

'The year ahead is not a year for dramatic new legislative initiatives in consumer protection,' Mr Hattersley said, 'It is a year for consolidating our existing powers and for extending them into new areas. That does not mean that the frontiers of consumer protection will not be pushed forward. By extending the use of powers we already possess we can make 1977 a year of very considerable progress.

'Many garages advertise their petrol prices in a thoroughly misleading way. We are now just beginning the consultations which will, I hope, lead to a statutory order's being made next month. Indeed, I believe there is a demand for action on general price display, to make sure that it helps rather than misleads the consumer. The time has come to respond to that demand. I am therefore considering an order to require prices to be displayed for all food and drink. For many shops this will cause no problems at all – it would simply be a matter of showing their selling-prices. It is not a sudden extension of unit pricing.

'In the more distant future, I am considering the obligation to services, where consumers often have little idea in advance of what they may be liable to pay. For this reason we are, under the Price Commission Bill, extending our powers so that we can require price display for any class of goods or service. This is a field where I am sure we must do more. Consumers have the right to know the price before they are committed to buying; open display of prices sharpens competition, and so contributes to price restraint.

'The next year will see the extension of the existing legislation on unit pricing. If consumers are to see whether a particular item reflects good value for money, the price should be given in units which enable comparison to be made between different outlets. That is why unit pricing is a corner-stone of our policy on price display for those goods where prescribed quantities or standardised containers are not appropriate. To do this, I intend to make orders shortly on meat and cheese, and expect these to be in operation by the end of the year. Further action on fish, poultry, fruit and vegetables will follow. I believe that unit pricing will have a particularly valuable role in aiding the consumer during the transition to metrication.

'I expect to make considerable progress in 1977 on the safety of consumer products. We have already made revised regulations this year on oil heaters and by the end of the year we hope to have completed new regulations on babies' dummies, prams and push-chairs, oil lamps, the construction of aerosol containers, the composition and labelling of cosmetics and the labelling and packaging of damaging chemicals.

'I intend to introduce in the early summer a draft order under part 2 of the Fair Trading Act to prevent "disguised business sales". I am determined to stamp out the practice by which traders advertising – typically in local newspapers – pretend to be private individuals, and thus escape from the regulations that govern the activities of traders.'

Mr Hattersley said he intends also to develop further the Consumer Credit Act 1974, which will, for the first time, treat all forms of credit alike and give protection to the consumer over the whole range of credit and hiring transactions. Orders and regulations to achieve this were published in March, and they make possible three new steps in implementing this important act.

'From 1 October next most consumer credit and hiring businesses will require licences – marking the second stage of the introduction of licensing. In future the consumer will be entitled to obtain from the credit grantor, owner or negotiator details of any credit reference agency from which information about him was sought. Irrespective of whether an inquiry was made or not, the credit reference agency will have to give the consumer a copy of any file it keeps about him. And if there is an incorrect entry, the consumer can ask the agency to correct it. If this fails to produce the desired effect, the consumer can apply to the director general of fair trading to settle the dispute.

'Again under the Consumer Credit Act, I intend to give the court the ability to re-open agreements and to grant justice when it finds a credit bargain extortionate. The onus will always be on the creditor to prove that his terms were not extortionate, and this provision should provide relief for those – often those least able to protect their own interest – who have been induced to enter into extortionate credit agreements.'

Quarterly report on prices

Price increases were reduced by £175 million a year through 177 notifications of price increases for category I or II companies being modified, rejected or withdrawn, reports* the Price Commission. In the three months to 28 February, about £0.4 million was secured in the form of price reductions or the absorbing of costs by larger enterprises which had exceeded their reference levels. The commission's regional staff secured 374 general price reductions from smaller firms which had exceeded their reference levels, saving the consumer about £13 million and 289 individual price reductions were made following complaints from the public about particular prices.

During the same three months the retail price index increased by 4.6 per cent bringing the increase for the 12 months to February 1977 to 16.2 per cent. The wholesale price index rose by 5.8 per cent bringing the 12-month increase to 19.7 per cent. The com-

* Price Commission Report for the period of 1 December 1976-28 February 1977, HC313, HMSO, price £1.40.

mission's own index, based on price notifications received, rose by 3.6 per cent in the three months bringing the 12-month increase to 15.8 per cent.

The commission considers that, particularly where a change in trend is occurring, a six-month comparison provides a more reliable indication of the rate of inflation than either 12 or three-month figures. As the Price Commission's index is based on notifications of intended price increases by manufacturers it is a leading indicator, showing trends perhaps two to four months in advance of the retail price index.

The 9.2 per cent increase in the commission's index over the six months to February compares with an increase of 8.8 per cent increase in the six months to January and to December, and 9.3 per cent to November. From a position of relative stability, 6 per cent or so for six months last summer, the commission's index jumped to show an increase of 8.2 per cent for the six months to October 1976.

During the three months to February there was a decline in the number of price increases notified by category I companies, although the level still remained very high. The monthly average was 298. There was also a decrease in the amounts of the price increases notified, from a monthly average of £1,014 million in the three months to November 1976 to £623 million in the latest period to February. The average percentage price increase notified at 4.5 per cent compares with 6.4 per cent for the previous quarter.

Notifications from category II showed a small increase, from a monthly average of 308 in the three months September-November 1976 to a monthly 327 in the latest period. Amounts of increases also rose, from a monthly average of £140 million to £157 million. The average percentage price increase rose from 7.1 per cent to 7.7 per cent.

More than 13,000 inquiries and complaints were handled by the regional offices and the headquarters inquiry unit during the three months to February, compared with 14,000 during the period September to November and 12,500 in the period June to August. In the latest period 73 per cent of those received were cleared on the day of receipt.

Since the establishment of the Price Commission in April 1973, the commission's 15 regional offices have secured agreement with the smaller, category III, companies to reduce prices to eliminate excess profits in 5,610 cases involving price reductions of £118 million. They have in addition obtained 8,200 price reductions in individual instances following complaints from the public. And – together with the HQ inquiry unit – they have dealt with nearly 350,000 inquiries and complaints.

Inquiries and complaints come not only from members of the public but also from the smaller companies seeking assistance.

Fair trading assurances

Written assurances under part III of the Fair Trading Act 1973 have been obtained from Edward Alfred Strickland and Mrs Sylvia Strickland, of 36 Matchams Lodge Chalet Park, Ringwood, Hampshire, who were both directors of S and J Associates Ltd (registered office: 8 Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey) by the director general of fair trading. The company which built home extensions is now in liquidation.

In asking for the assurances the director general took into account 15 complaints about S and J Associates Ltd which arose between March 1974 and September 1975. In nine of these cases S and J Associates were paid between £65 and £1,500, as either a deposit or the full amount for an extension but did little or no work. The remaining six complaints were about poor workmanship, for instance, extensions were incorrectly assembled, floors were unsteady or guttering leaked. The total amount involved was more than £9,000.

Elderly warned against rogues

A warning that unscrupulous salesmen, rogue repairers and tricky tradesmen are concentrating more on the elderly was given by Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, last week when he announced a nationwide campaign by the Office of Fair Trading to place a newspaper-style advice publication in the hands of senior citizens.

'I must sound a note of warning to all older people,' said Mr Borrie, 'particularly those who are less agile than they used to be and those who are unable to get out and about very much. There seem to be indications that the unfair traders are homing in on senior citizens as likely victims. The reasons for this trend are not difficult to spot – older folk can't shin up a ladder to see if the roof really needs mending or the chimney does need re-pointing; they often cannot get out to obtain two or three estimates for a building or repair job; and they may well have a nest-egg of life savings which is very attractive to the rogues.'

The director general cited the case of a widow in her 80s being persuaded to part with £20,000 for house repairs that were, in fact, worth £2,600.

Petrol price display

Proposals to regulate petrol price display are set out in a consultative document that has now been sent to interested parties. Its provisions, designed to give the motorist clear information on petrol prices, were first announced by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 6 April.

They include a requirement to mark all pumps with the highest price of every grade of petrol dispensed from that pump. Those garages advertising prices or price reductions will be required to display the prices of all grades of petrol on which reductions are made and, in any event, the price of four-star and at least one other grade of petrol. These displays will have to be unambiguous and clearly visible from the road and explicitly state any conditions attached to purchase of petrol at the advertised prices.

The order is expected to be laid by the end of May. Copies of the consultative document are available from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and comments should be directed to the Department at Room 242, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Enterprise and Innovation exhibition

An exhibition entitled 'Enterprise and Innovation' opened at the Design Centre, London, on 26 April. Celebrating both the 21st anniversary of the Design Centre and the Queen's silver jubilee, it illustrates the important role that product design can play in business success and profitability. Over 80 companies are showing a cross-section of their products, from carpets to car components, from household products to photographic equipment and products connected with various hobbies and activities. The exhibition closes on 28 May.

Household flour subsidy

The household flour subsidy is to end with effect from 1 May announced Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to Parliament on 29 April. This continues the government's policy for ending subsidies, announced by the Chancellor on 15 December 1976 as part of the package in connection with the IMF application.

The subsidy is paid on domestic packs of household flour, including plain, self-raising, strong, wheatmeal, wholemeal and chupatty flour. It is at present worth 1p per lb at retail level. The statutory maximum prices ruling for household flour under the Household Flour Prices (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1977 will remain in force for a time to cover subsidised flour that is already in the distributive chain. Unsubsidised flour is not subject to the statutory maximum prices.

Stockbrokers to advertise

Stockbroking firms are to have much more freedom to advertise their services as the Stock Exchange's restrictions on advertising are being relaxed. The rule allowing this should become absolute in one week's time. Announcing this on 28 April in Parliament, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that the new rule followed the discussions that had taken place between the Director General of Fair Trading and the Stock Exchange after publication of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on restrictions on advertising by stockbrokers last year.

Mr Fraser said that in their report, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission noted that the Stock Exchange's rules and regulations prevented stockbroking firms from using certain forms of advertising at all (eg radio and television), severely limited the content and the extent to which any press advertising might be used to obtain business, and prohibited altogether the use of circulars (other than to existing clients) as a means of attracting business from investors.

The Commission recommended that the Stock Exchange's existing rules on advertising should be terminated and should be replaced by a rule which, subject to any material statutory provisions, would permit any stockbroking firm of the Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom to use such methods of publicity as it thought fit subject to certain constraints in respect of claims of superiority, inaccuracies, breaches of good taste and recommendations about particular securities.

Under the Stock Exchange's new rule and associated code of conduct, which adopt almost all aspects of the Commission's recommendations and suggestions, member firms will be free to advertise their services through any of the media, including broadcasting, subject to the general constraints recommended by the Commission. They will however be required to seek approval from the Stock Exchange before issuing publicity material to persons other than their own clients and there will be no change in the existing policy that no recommendations of individual securities may be made to non-clients.

It is made clear to stockbroking firms that they will be expected to observe the British code of advertising practice operated by the Advertising Standards Authority. Similarly, those who wish to advertise their services on radio and television will be expected to observe the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) code of advertising standards and practice. At present the IBA code prohibits member firms of the Stock Exchange from advertising on radio and television. However, the IBA are in the process of altering their code to take into account the changes which have been made by the Stock Exchange.

Quick pay-back from energy saving

Investment in energy conservation, in the reduction of energy demand, is as essential, if not more so, as investment in energy production, Dr John Cunningham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy told the London branch of the Institute of Petroleum last week. Lead times were much shorter and the pay-back from energy-saving more immediate, important considerations in the energy industry. Energy-saving meant quick cash-saving.

'A distinguishing feature of energy conservation is the very disaggregated nature of the subject,' Dr Cunningham said, 'it depends on a large number of decisions by very many people on a wide range of topics. But we have made a start.

'Original estimates of the effects of our conservation policy – including pricing – stood at 2 per cent of primary energy use, worth about £200 million in oil equivalent. But a recent report from the Department of Energy, on energy elasticities, estimated that energy-savings in 1975 could have been of the order of 6 per cent, worth £600 million in terms of imported oil.

'But we have to achieve even greater success in our efforts to save energy than we did in 1975. Energy conservation is no mere passing fancy. It is a long-term element in our energy equation. An absolute imperative, not only for Britain but for all industrialised economies. Energy conservation has now achieved international standing as a major objective for the advanced nations. Because growth in energy demand nationally and worldwide is a major constraint on the formulation of policy. Limiting considerably our room for manoeuvre – restricting our degrees of freedom.'

Faster oil production build-up

Total possible estimated reserves of oil in present discoveries on the UK Continental Shelf have risen by 210 million tonnes to 2,500 million tonnes, according to the 'Brown book', published last week by the Department of Energy. The brown book is the annual report to parliament by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, on the development of oil and gas resources of the UK. The possible total for fields in production or under development rose by 90 million tonnes to 1,260 million tonnes and that for other significant discoveries not yet fully appraised went up by 120 million tonnes to 1,240 million tonnes. Oil production this year is forecast at 40-45 million tonnes rising to 60-70 million tonnes in 1978 (between two-thirds and three-quarters of current annual UK demand).

The report points to seven major developments during 1976:

despite delays in the start-up of some fields, a rapid build-up in production to a rate of almost half a million barrels per day by year-end;

the first substantial economic benefits from North Sea oil which, with gas production, led to a total balance of payments saving of around £3 billion;

the rapid development of the British National Oil Corporation which could have access, in the 1980s, to between 35 and 40 million tonnes of oil per year from its equity interests, participation arrangements and royalties;

arrangements for state participation through BNOC in virtually all commercial oil fields found under existing licences;

a fifth round of offshore licensing, requiring majority State participation in all licences, which attracted keen interest among oil companies;

the formation of a study company to look at the technical and financial viability of a gas gathering pipeline system in the northern North Sea; and

an increase in offshore oil-related employment in the UK to about 100,000 jobs with the offshore labour force on installations rising to almost 10,000.

Introducing the report, Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy said, '1976 was the year in which oil began coming ashore in large quantities. After five or six years of

The work of BSI

The British Standards Institution is the official standards organisation for this country and is very active in removing technical barriers to trade through international standards organisation such as ISO and IEC. BSI has several other functions. It runs certification and approval schemes, among them granting licences to manufacturers to use the 'Kitemark' on products conforming to British Standards. It also undertakes testing work for outside bodies and, through the Technical Help to Exporters Scheme. provides information on technical requirements and approvals procedures in overseas markets. BSI, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS.

looking forward to them, we can now see clearly the early benefits of our offshore oil resources. The balance of payments benefits last year reached about £1 billion and we began to see a small but growing revenue from royalties.

'Average production during March 1977 increased to 720,000 barrels a day (over 35m tonnes in a full year) and the rate at the end of the month had reached three-quarter million barrels a day. All the indicators suggest that we will hit this year's target of 40-45 million tonnes. Production at that level would be worth around £2,500 million at the prices – around $14 a barrel – which North Sea crude can now command. We remain on target for self sufficiency in 1980 with last year's delays being more than made up for by a faster-than-expected build-up of production over the coming two years.'

There were 12 oil and two gas discoveries during 1976, bringing the total since offshore exploration began in 1964 to 73 (45 of oil and 28 of gas and gas condensate). These discoveries maintained the success rate for exploration drilling at about one in five with an exceptional one in two east of Shetland. Exploration and appraisal drilling during 1976 totalled 21.2 rig years – a reduction, as forecast, from the 27.7 rig years of 1975. This was more than offset by an increase in development drilling. The average number of rigs active this year could reach 25 with higher levels of activity to the west of England and Wales and west of Shetland than in 1976.

The report states that, last year, UK industry and commerce gained a record share of offshore investment representing a quarter of all UK fixed industrial investment. It also points out that UK industry is now active in offshore markets overseas having won important contracts in Brazil, Holland and India and elsewhere.

Development of the Oil and Gas Resources of the United Kingdom 1977 – a report to parliament by the Secretary of State for Energy. HMSO, price £2.25 net.

Young people and work

The Manpower Services Commission has endorsed in broad terms the report of a working party set up in October 1976 to study measures to help unemployed young people. The commission will shortly be entering into discussion with the government on the proposals in the report and examining particular aspects of them in greater detail. The proposals are for a unified programme of opportunities, replacing and extending the current temporary measures to alleviate youth unemployment, which would be fully implemented by 1 September 1978.

Survey of employment

Up-to-date information about the kind of jobs people have, unemployment, changes of employment and pensions is to be obtained from a survey taking place in the United Kingdom during April and May. Similar surveys are being conducted throughout the rest of the European community. The statistical information they produce will help among other things to assess claims for the European social fund, whose main objective is the promotion of training in areas of high unemployment.

This survey covers a sample of 90,000 households in England and Wales; in Scotland a sample of 10,000 households; and in Northern Ireland a sample of 5,000 households. Participation in the survey will be voluntary. Total confidentiality will apply to information given. The survey forms will not record names and addresses and the information will be processed in such a way that no individual or household can be identified.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Davy International Ltd and Herbert Morris Ltd

Pilkington Brothers Ltd and Barr and Stroud Ltd.

Inquiry into financial institutions

A number of preliminary submissions of evidence were discussed at the third meeting, held last week, of the Committee to Review the Functioning of Financial Institutions under the chairmanship of Sir Harold Wilson. The submissions, received from government departments and representative bodies, all relate to the first stage of the inquiry, the provision of finance for industry. Many more submissions on this subject will be coming in over the next few weeks. The committee also discussed its programme of research inquiries. It will next meet on Tuesday, 10 May.

Recovery of unemployment and supplementary benefit from employers

Employers will become liable to pay back, from 9 May 1977, unemployment benefit and supplementary benefit which has been received by employees who have awards made in their favour at industrial tribunals. This is the effect of the Employment Protection (Recoupment of Unemployment Benefit and Supplementary Benefit) Regulations 1977*, published last week.

The regulations apply where a tribunal award includes arrears of pay or compensation for loss of earnings for periods when the employee received state benefits. The awards affected are those made because of unfair dismissal of an employee, failure to pay guarantee payments, failure to pay remuneration for periods when an employee is suspended on medical grounds, and protective awards made under the provisions for the handling of redundancies.

* SI 1977 No. 674, HMSO, price 35p.

Patents endorsed 'licences of right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949, the following patents were endorsed 'licences of right' on the dates specified.

20 April 1977

1151489 Precision Dynamics Corporation
Finger print impression forming apparatus for identification systems
1151490 Precision Dynamics Corporation
Finger print record card for identification systems
1295057 Precision Dynamics Corporation
Imprinting device, and method of making same
1295058 Precision Dynamics Corporation
A method of manufacturing a film of impression conforming material
1417712 Agfa-Gevaert
Photographic processing
1454902 Agfa-Gevaert
Method and apparatus for the production of electrostatic charge patterns
1455413 Agfa-Gevaert
Development of photographic silver halide elements
1046443 Image Analysing Computers Ltd
A method of and apparatus for assessing the quantity of inclusions of foreign material in solid specimens
1277016 Image Analysing Computers Ltd
Device for modifying the signal obtained from an image analysis system detection device.
1253997 Donald Gillan Purvis
Hydraulic accumulator
1453145 Donald Gillan Purvis
Hydraulic turbine
1287765 Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft
Combustion chamber head for internal combustion engines
1413222 S.C.A.M.A.S. Societe de Construction d'Appareils de Manutention d'Automatisation et de Stockage
Support structures

22 April 1977

1206508 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
Improvements in or relating to cooking ovens
1235798 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
A cooking oven
1295813 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
Appliances, eg dishwashing machines or cookers, within which articles loaded therein are subjected to some form of domestic treatment
1322747 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
Mounting of a drawer, sliding shelf or the like
1331105 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
Cabinet-type heater
1351292 Bosch-Siemens Hausgerate Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter
Appliances, for example domestic cookers, of the kind having doors giving access to treatment chambers in the appliances
989119 Bendix Westinghouse Ltd
Improvements relating to slip control apparatus
1326142 Maurice Debry
A machine for the automatic continuous manufacture of reinforcements
1432607 Robert W. Beckwith
Voltage regulator
1432615 Automated Building Components Inc.
Truss manufacturing system
1449208 Theodore Stig Wadensten
Turbine-type vibrators

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on patents form no 45 within two months after the date of endorsement. E. Armitage, Comptroller

Middle East visitors

Nearly £1,300 was spent in Britain, including more than £500 on shopping, by the average visitor from the Middle East, according to a survey published by the British Tourist Authority. Last year an estimated 370,000 Arabs and Iranians came to Britain. They accounted for 4 per cent of all overseas visitors and 10 per cent of tourist expenditure.

The survey revealed that shopping was one of the main attractions of visiting Britain. Other reasons for choosing Britain included familiarity with the language, entertainment and nightlife in London, and the weather – in contrast to the hot summers of the Middle East. Half the visitors in the survey were in Britain on holiday. About one in five were here primarily for business reasons, including conferences. A further 17 per cent visited Britain for medical treatment or were accompanying someone who had come for that reason.

Inspectors of Peachey Property Corporation

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Mr R. I. Kidwell, QC, of 2 Crown Office Row, Temple, London EC4 and Mr D. S. Samwell, FCA, of Metropolis House, 39-45 Tottenham Court Road, London W1, under section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, as amended, as inspectors to investigate and report on the affairs of Peachy Property Corporation Ltd.

Investment impact

Investment resulting from the government's ferrous foundry scheme is now having a direct impact on the industry in the form of eliminating out-of-date plant, providing a better service to customers, raising employees morale and opening up export markets.

This was emphasised by Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Industry, when opening an exhibition of foundry equipment at the Birmingham Exhibition Centre.

'By common consent the ferrous foundry industry had a legacy of under-investment, leading to poor working conditions and difficulties in meeting the demands of customers,' he said. 'Major investment was necessary if industry was to meet the demands of the 1980s and it is to industry's credit that it has responded so well to the scheme. No fewer than 500 applications were received by the closing date of 31 December last, for assistance of about £131 million towards investment of almost £571 million.

'Over 200 applications, about half of them for small firms, have been approved, involving assistance of over £32 million towards investment of nearly £147 million. All this would not have been possible without the co-operation of the suppliers of foundry equipment who have responded to the increased demand with all the resilience that one would expect from an industry with their long tradition of service.'

Mr Williams referred also to the non-ferrous foundry scheme, 'Its aims are broadly as for the ferrous scheme and £20 million has been made available to encourage and assist new investment in modern plant, equipment and buildings, and to improve the industry's structure, working conditions and general operating efficiency. The scheme has a limited life and applications must be in by 31 July 1978.'

Insulation saves tax

Hundreds of companies may be failing to take advantage of a tax allowance that could save them money.

The Finance Act, 1975 provides for a 100 per cent first year tax allowance on expenditure incurred after 12 November 1974, on insulating certain types of existing industrial buildings against heat loss.

The allowance will normally cover expenditure on roof-lining, double-glazing, cavity wall filling and draught excluders. It may also cover such things as flexible doors and airlocks. The installation costs as well as the outlay on materials are allowable expenses. An industrialist who is paying corporation tax at 52 per cent may be eligible for a tax allowance of about £500 if he spends £1,000 on insulating a building which qualifies. In addition to this, he saves money by cutting his fuel bill.

Because an important factor in determining whether the allowance is payable is the purpose for which the work is carried out, it is not possible to give a detailed list of the types of installation which are allowable. Companies in doubt should consult their local inspector of taxes.

British Steel Corporation re-appointment

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has re-appointed Mr W. D. Griffiths as a part-time member of the British Steel Corporation for a further period of one year from 1 June 1977.

Official appointments

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has made the following appointments:

National Consumer Council Alex Crawford, executive member of the National Federation of Consumer Groups, hon secretary of the Rushmoor Consumer Group and member of the Southern Electricity Consultative Council; Ken Glynn, general secretary of the Society of Post Office Executives; Councillor Dick Knowles, chairman, Environmental Services and Consumer Protection Committee, West Midlands County Council and chairman, General Purposes Committee, Association of Municipal Authorities; Mrs Pat Lambert, member of BSI's Consumer Standards Advisory Committee, chairman of the BSI Co-ordinating Committee dealing with consumer aspects of building and engineering and chairman of the Nottinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes; Lord Peddie, chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council; Brendon S. Sewill, adviser on public affairs to the Committee of London Clearing Bankers; and Mrs Joan Young, JP, branch secretary of Co-operative Women's Guild, member, Tees Area Committee of the Northern Gas Consumers' Council and panel member of a DHSS local appeals tribunal.

Metrication Board, Chairman James Maxwell Wood, OBE, Member of the Consumer Consultative Committee of the European Economic Community, Member of the Consumers' Committee under the Agricultural Marketing Acts, Member of the National Consumer Council, Member of the Policy Holders' Protection Board (representing policy holders), and a Member of the Food Hygiene Advisory Council (DHSS).

Action committee on film industry

The interim action committee which is to be chaired by Sir Harold Wilson and which will follow up progress made by the Terry Report on the Future of the British Film Industry will have the following members:

David Berriman	Lord Lloyd of Hampstead, QC
Lord Brabourne	Anthony Mallinson
Sir Max Brown	Alasdair Milne
Edmond Chilton	David Puttnam
Michael Deeley	Alan Sapper
Lord Delfont	Professor Geoffrey Sims
Lady Falkender	Sir John Terry
David Gordon	Brian Tesler
Allan Grant	Alexander Walker

Appointments are for an indefinite period and members will be unpaid. Mr F. Morris Dyson has been appointed secretary to the committee.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

10, 11 May 1977—Miscellaneous stores

Location
Auctioneer's premises

Auctioneers
Woolland Son and Manico (Dept L), Kinterbury House, St Andrew's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2DQ (tel. 0752 69292)

Stores lying at various depots in the West country including service clothing and textiles, office and household furniture, binoculars, telescopes, marine barometers, ships lanterns, anchors etc. Two 5-ton amphibious vehicles, tractors, Land-Rover and saloon cars.

12 May 1977—Furniture

Location
RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Salop

Auctioneers
Hall, Wateridge and Owen (Dept L), Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury, Salop (tel. 0743 57074)

A small sale of approximately 500 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities.

14 May 1977—Furniture

Location
Roman Way Camp, Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex

Auctioneers
Fenn Wright Garrod Turner (Dept L), 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex (tel. 0206 46161)

A small sale of approximately 400 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities.

18, 19 May 1977—Miscellaneous stores

Location
The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers
Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292 4211)

The lots are lying at various depots in Hampshire and include a large quantity of service clothing and textiles, office and household furniture and equipment. Electrical, photographic and optical goods, forklift truck, tractors, machine tools, vehicle spares etc. and many other interesting items.

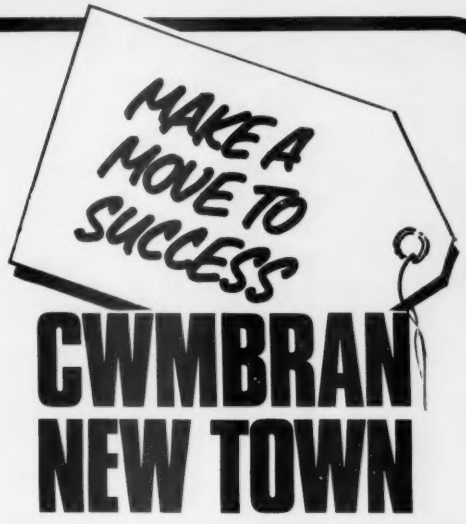
26 May 1977—Miscellaneous stores

Location
The Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

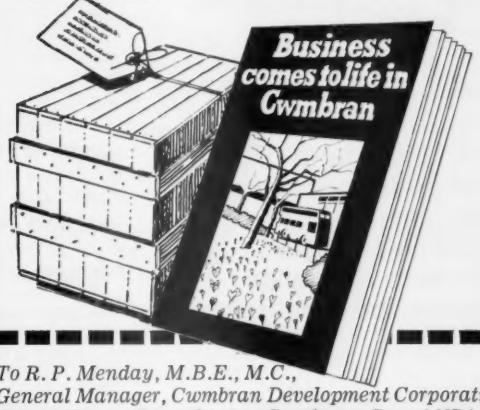
Auctioneers
Dixon and Wallace (Dept L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel. 041-554 2447)

The stores are lying at various depots in Scotland and include vehicles, various items of plant and machine tools, generators and other engineering stores. A large collection of service clothing and textiles, furniture and many other interesting items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).



When you plan to expand or begin manufacture in Britain, Cwmbran's experience can be of real value to you: for Cwmbran is one of Britain's most successful industrial developments.
Cwmbran Development Corporation built almost 50 factories in a two year programme and let them all within a year! Already more than 170 industrialists have made Cwmbran their industrial homes. We know the problems of relocation and have solved them.
London is only 90 mins. away by the new High Speed Trains and only a little over two hours by M4. We are 90 mins. from Birmingham by M5/M50. We have 45,000 people, excellent housing, schools and shops, and every facility for work and leisure. Modern factories and leasehold sites are still available, and the Corporation welcomes enquiries from industrialists in the U.K. or overseas who wish to expand in a beautiful area with the aid of Government grants. Substantial rent concessions may apply. The key men who come with new industry can be housed immediately.
Get the facts. Please use the coupon or write or telephone today.



To R. P. Menday, M.B.E., M.C., General Manager, Cwmbran Development Corporation, Gwent House, Town Centre, Cwmbran, Gwent NP4 3XJ, Wales. Telephone Cwmbran 67777.

Name_____
Position_____
Company_____
Address_____

TI1

ENCIRCLE TI 488 ON PAGE 251 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

British Aerospace takes off

Last week four companies – British Aircraft Corporation, Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics and Scottish Aviation – came together to form the publicly-owned British Aerospace (BAe). The output of BAe will range from civil and military aircraft, space vehicles and guided weapons to specialised equipment and sophisticated support contracts.

British Aerospace can secure a profitable share of new aircraft business – if it builds the aircraft which people want and offers them at competitive prices, said Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, who has special responsibility for aerospace, on 29 April.

He told union members and officials from the aircraft industry, at a special meeting to celebrate vesting day, that the four companies, united under a single publicly-owned body, would provide a framework in which the industry could realise its full potential.

'The government will ensure that the corporation has the funds it needs to develop new projects which are commercially viable. It is only by building aircraft that customers want and by offering them at competitive prices, that British Aerospace can secure a profitable share of new aircraft business.'

Mr Kaufman said that one of the most important features of public ownership would be the development of industrial democracy. The corporation had a statutory duty to promote industrial democracy in a strong and organic form.

'This is the first time a nationalisation statute has contained such a duty. BAe must report to the secretary of state within six months on the steps necessary to carry it out. In making this report and in formulating its plans the corporation must consult the trade unions in the industry. I know that the corporation is keen to press ahead with consultations with trade unions.'

In a letter to BAC chairman Lord Beswick, the Prime Minister pointed out that the corporation was set the task of establishing its own identity as a going commercial concern. British Aerospace, Mr Callaghan said, must be ready to take advantage of its opportunities in both civil and military fields, both on its own and in collaboration with partners overseas. The government was determined that the nationalised UK industry should win a profitable share of new aircraft and guided weapons business.

'We have been doing all we can', said Mr Callaghan, 'to assist overseas sales and to encourage and help international discussions on new projects, and we shall continue to give it every support.

'The future of a great industry rests in the hands of all those who work in the companies that now form part of one of the world's greatest airframe manufacturers. To a large extent that depends, of course, on orders won in world markets. But there is every reason to believe that the demand for new aircraft will increase.'

In an address a day earlier, Lord Beswick stressed that profitable enterprise was the corporation's aim. He explained that BAe had been created from strength, not from weakness, and it intended not just to maintain the British and European position in the markets of the world, but to expand and reinforce it technically, competitively, industrially and economically. The individual companies, he said, had already established an enviable reputation for the sophistication, reliability and quality of their products.

'They are now banded together in British Aerospace and British Aerospace is going to be a very big power indeed. Already it can stand comparison with any company in the world – and it is going to stay that way.'

But he pointed out that the advantages of size must not impair the benefits of local initiative. 'I have just given pledges which will be honoured, that we shall have no big bureaucracy imposed upon this enterprise. We shall delegate authority to the optimum extent.'

Beneath BAe's policy-making board (see page 216), he said, it was planned to have two operating groups – an aircraft group and a dynamics group. The structure below these groups was now a matter of study but further decentralisation of authority and encouragement of initiative was the principle to be applied.

International collaboration

Within its constituent companies, British Aerospace has a wealth of experience in the organisation and management of major collaborative projects. The current international programmes of the BAe companies cover commercial and military aircraft, guided weapons, defence support services and space.

BAe's product range

Civil aircraft

BAC ONE-ELEVEN

To date, 222 of the twin-jet One-Eleven airliners, worth around £382 million, have been chosen by 60 operators in 63 countries of the world. Currently in production are two basic types, the 'mainline' BAC One-Eleven 500 seating up to 119 passengers for use in scheduled and inclusive-tour operations and the 'high performance, short-field' BAC One-Eleven 475 seating up to 89 passengers. Both types are powered by Rolls-Royce Spey turbo-fan engines. Further developments of the One-Eleven family are now under active consideration.

CONCORDE

Built jointly with Aerospatiale of France, supersonic Concorde is the world's most advanced airliner, reducing flight times by half on key international routes of up to 4,000 miles. In airline service with British Airways and Air France, Concorde has demonstrated tremendous passenger appeal, outstanding technical reliability and limited environmental impact. It is powered by four Rolls-Royce/SNECMA Olympus 593 engines. A total of 16 Concordes have been authorised for production, of which British Airways has five aircraft on order and Air France four. Some of these aircraft are, of course, already in service.

HS125

The HS125 executive jet is one of the most successful business aircraft in the world with over 350 sold in 26 countries – 200 of these to north America. First flown in 1962, this versatile jet has been constantly developed and the latest production variant, the Series 700, is significantly quieter in operation than earlier versions, has better fuel consumption and a 50 per cent increase in range. First sales have already been made.

HAWKER SIDDELEY 748

More than 300 HS748 transport aircraft have been ordered by over 60 airlines and air forces throughout the world. Powered by two Rolls-Royce Dart turbo-props, the HS748 is available as a commercial or VIP transport, military freighter or cost-effective maritime patrol aircraft. Also built under licence in India, the

BAe: a few facts and figures

Employees	65,000
Factories	23
Gross assets	£600 million
Gross sales expected in 1977	£800 million plus
Order book	£1½ billion plus

HQ address: British Aerospace, 100 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HR

HS748 is easily maintained and is capable of operating in a wide variety of roles from varied airfield surfaces.

TRIDENT
The Trident range of aircraft provides the backbone of the regional fleets of British Airways and the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which ordered 35 aircraft. Some 80 Tridents, powered by three Rolls-Royce Spey engines, are in service in Europe, the Middle East and Far East. The first airliners in the world to be certificated for automatic landing in passenger service, Tridents are now cleared for the lowest permitted operating minima for any airliner in service.

A300B AIRBUS
The European Airbus is the only twin-engined wide-body transport available to the world's short/medium haul market. Hawker Siddeley is responsible for the design and production of the wings and provides an overall design consultancy for the entire aircraft. To date. 60 A300Bs are on order or option for nine airlines and the aircraft has demonstrated outstanding reliability and passenger appeal in service.

Space

ARIANE LAUNCHER
HSD is manufacturing a number of items, including the launcher release gear for the French heavy launcher Ariane.

COMSTAR 1
Electronics and Space Systems group (ESS) is the only overseas supplier to this United States domestic communication satellite system. On completion of this contract ESS had supplied to Hughes Aircraft Company 16 sets of satellite hardware.

COS-B
COS-B, is the latest scientific satellite in which ESS has operating systems, and was developed by European industry for the European Space Agency (ESA).

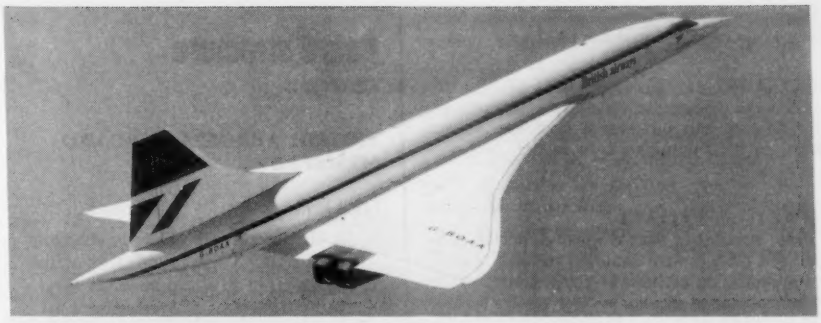
GEOS
Geos will be an important part of Europe's contribution to the international magnetospheric study (1976-78). From a synchronous orbit 22,300 miles (36,000km) above the equator, Geos will probe the earth's magnetospheric environment, studying electric, magnetic and particle fields.

INTELSAT IV-A
ESS has manufactured commercial satellite hardware since the 1960s, under contract to Hughes Aircraft Company, for the Intelsat IV series of communication satellites that now relays telephone and television traffic worldwide.

ISEE-B
As a member of the Star consortium under contract to Dornier, ESS is developing subsystems for the ISEE-B satellite in the Nasa/European Space Agency (ESA) international sun earth explorer system.

MAROTS
Marots is the first derivative of OTS and the operational forerunner of future world-wide maritime communications services. The satellite is scheduled for launch in 1978. HSD, leading the Mesh consortium, is the prime contractor for the bus vehicle.

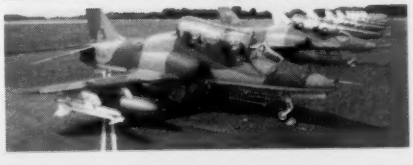
ORBITAL TEST SATELLITE
HSD, leading the Mesh consortium of European companies, is the prime contractor for the

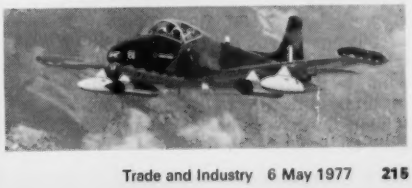


They've taken off . . .

Above, from the top: Concorde (of course!); second, one of the many Tridents exported to China; third, a new fan jet version of the HS 125 business jet; fourth, first of five One-Eleven airliners for Tarom, the Romanian state airline.

Below: top left, the Bulldog series 120 military trainer – another export winner; bottom left, the new Hawk ground-attack/trainer, already ordered by the Royal Air Force and the Finnish Air Force; top right, the airborne early warning Nimrod; bottom right, a BAC 167 Strikemaster in service with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.





European Space Agency's orbital test satellite due to be launched in June 1977.

SKYLARK
ESS is the industrial agent and design authority for Skylark and provides a complete service from payload preparation to launch and data analysis.

SPACELAB PALLETS
Under contract to the European Spacelab consortium, HSD is manufacturing pallets – experiment mounting platforms – to be carried in the American space shuttle.

WEATHER SATELLITE RECEIVERS
HSD supplies complete stations to receive the automatic weather picture transmissions from American weather satellites.

Military aircraft

BUCCANEER
Buccaneer is a low-level strike and reconnaissance aircraft in service with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy and the South African Air Force.

BULLDOG 120
The fully aerobatic Bulldog 120 is a basic training aircraft with over 250 delivered to some nine air forces.

HARRIER
Harrier, the world's first operational jet V/STOL fighter, powered by a single Pegasus vectored thrust turbo-fan, is in service with the Royal Air Force, United States Marine Corps and Spanish Navy.

HAWK
The Hawk ground-attack/trainer is the RAF's new generation jet trainer aircraft with initial deliveries of 175 aircraft which began in October 1976.

JAGUAR
Built with Dassault-Breguet of France, Jaguar is the first collaborative aircraft to enter service with the RAF and French Air Force, which has ordered a total of 402 aircraft.

JETSTREAM
Jetstream is a prop-jet powered light transport with a remarkably spacious cabin.

NIMROD
Nimrod is the world's first four-jet long range patrol and maritime reconnaissance aircraft and the first new integrated maritime weapon system to emerge for more than a decade. In service with the RAF, Nimrod carries the most up-to-date operational avionics and has been adapted as an airborne early warning variant.

STRIKEMASTER
Developed from the successful Jet Provost trainer, Strikemaster is a rugged and versatile aircraft meeting the need for genuine multi-role capability, combining pilot and weapons training with operational strike and reconnaissance.

TORNADO
Europe's largest and most important military aircraft programme with a total of 809 aircraft required. The swing-wing Tornado is built jointly by Panavia GmbH a tri-national company set up by British Aircraft Corporation, Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm of Germany and Aeritalia of Italy.

Board structure

BRITISH AEROSPACE BOARD MEMBERS

Lord Beswick	Chairman	Dr G. H. Hough	Deputy chief executive, dynamics group
A. H. C. Greenwood	Deputy chairman (with special responsibility for marketing strategy)	G. R. Jefferson	Chairman and chief executive, dynamics group
L. W. Buck	Director of industrial relations	F. W. Page	Chairman and chief executive, aircraft group
Sir Peter Fletcher	Director of corporate strategy and planning	Dr A. W. Pearce	Part-time member
B. E. Friend	Financial director	E. G. Rubython	Deputy chief executive, aircraft group
D. O. Gladwin	Part-time member	J. T. Stamper	Technical director

British Aerospace plans to move towards a structure with two groups – aircraft and dynamics. In the meantime, the present companies will continue in existence. The following management changes are therefore being made with effect from 29 April, 1977:

AIRCRAFT GROUP

BAC Ltd. F. W. Page, chairman; T. B. Prichard, deputy chairman; E. G. Rubython.
BAC (Commercial Aircraft) Ltd. E. G. Rubython, J. P. Smith, chief engineer, civil, HSA Hatfield; J. L. Thorne, deputy managing director, HSA Ltd.
BAC (Preston) Ltd. H. R. Baxendale, chairman, F. W. Page, E. G. Rubython, J. L. Glasscock, director and general manager, HSA Ltd; P. Jefferson, production director, HSA Ltd.
HS Aviation Ltd. E. G. Rubython, chairman and managing director, J. L. Thorne, deputy managing director (and remains director and general manager, HSA Hatfield); J. L. Glasscock, director and general manager; F. W. Page.

HS Aviation Ltd (management board). J. Ferguson Smith, *deputy chairman and managing director, BAC (CA) Ltd; M. Wilde, *deputy managing director, BAC (CA) Ltd. H. R. Baxendale, †chairman, BAC (Preston) Ltd; A. F. Atkin, †managing director, BAC (Preston) Ltd.
* For consideration of transport aircraft matters.
† For consideration of military and training aircraft matters.
Scottish Aviation Ltd. T. D. M. Robertson, chairman; F. W. Page; E. G. Rubython.

DYNAMICS GROUP

BAC (Guided Weapons) Ltd. G. R. Jefferson, chairman; T. G. Kent, managing director; Dr G. H. Hough; Capt E. D. G. Lewin.

HS Dynamics Ltd. Capt E. D. G. Lewin, chairman; Dr G. H. Hough, managing director; G. R. Jefferson; T. G. Kent.

Guided weapons

Air-to-air. Sky Flash, SRAAM, Firestreak, Red Top.
Air-to-surface. Martel, Active-Radar Sea-Skimming Martel, Sea Skua.
Anti-submarine. Ikara.
Anti-tank. Swingfire.
Surface-to-air. Land/sea Dart, Rapier, Seawolf.

Other products

Electronics. Instrumentation, antennas, air intake system, Computer modelling, Countermeasures, marine technology.
Infra-red systems. Linescan, thermal imager, thermal sight, infra-red fuzes.
Mechanical equipment.
Microelectronics.
Precision electro-mechanical instruments. Gyroscopes for missiles, gyroscopes for inertial navigation, Steadyscope, meridian indicator, electrolevel alignment system, deck movement indicator.
Reinforced and microwave plastics. Tornado radome, Concorde radome, other radomes, antennas.
Weighing systems.

New products

Lubricant and rust inhibitor

Claimed to protect metal surfaces for up to two years, a new non-fling, high temperature waterproof lubricant and rust inhibitor, is now available in the UK from Metprotek of Surrey.

ESA 100 is said to be suitable for all marine, industrial and agricultural applications, lubricating and protecting metal surfaces from rust and corrosion under the most severe conditions.

Containing no silicones or chlorinated solvents, the new product is harmless to plastics, rubber and paints, and is able to withstand temperatures of up to 300°C.

Developed in the US, the product was first used on cars, particularly in the brake drum area where it prevented the brake calipers from rusting in snow and salt in heavily corrosive conditions.

Now able to withstand high temperatures, ESA 100 could be used, for instance, for protecting the wheel bearings on boat trailers, as it does not wash off in sea water.

In a recent test, a throttle cable, taken out of its casing and coated with the new lubricant successfully resisted corrosion when immersed in sea water.

Further information: circle 321

On-line powdering machine

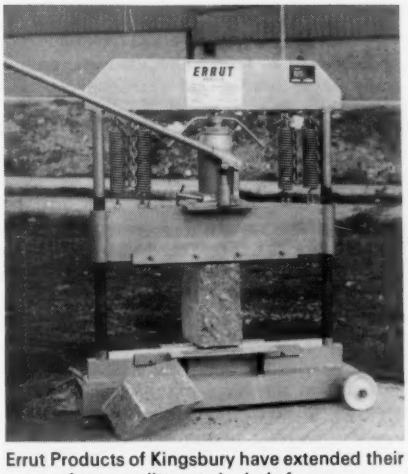
A compact self-contained machine for applying even coatings of any powder onto factory products and components, both regular and irregular in shape, can now be included in production lines. A pollution-free tunnel system, developed by Chandor Ltd, enables continuous products such as sheet, wire or cable, or individually cast or moulded components, to be sprayed with powder from a specially designed dust gun as they pass through the machine. Negative air pressure within prevents the powder from escaping and polluting the working environment.

Powdering techniques are required to prevent adhesion between sheets of rubber or plastics, or concentric layers of cable insulation. In metal industries, powder coating can be used as dry lubricants and corrosion inhibitors. In the motor industry, the application lies in the inspection procedure for newly cast components which are powdered and subjected to infra-red light to highlight any flaws.

The machine, fully self-contained, requires no dust extraction plant and only minimum supervision. Reservoirs can be refilled either manually, or gravity fed. A range of standard machines is available, although the system's modular concept enables easy adaptation to specific requirements. A typical machine may have upper and lower jets for powder application on sheet up to 2.43m (8 ft) wide, with brushes to remove excess powder, and a self-cleaning air filter. A screw conveyor returns excess powder to the reservoir.

Further information: circle 322

Stone splitters



Errut Products of Kingsbury have extended their range of stone splitters to include four new machines. With widths from 12.5 in (318mm) to 25 in (635mm), these have a cutting depth of 9 in (230mm) for use on both breeze and concrete building blocks or concrete kerb stones. Two vertical guides and two horizontal beams form a perimeter frame with the fixed blade at the base. When the hydraulics are pressurized by a hand pump, the beam carrying the movable knife, guided by the two side members, is forced downwards with a thrust of up to 15 tonnes. The block, sandwiched between the two knives, splits cleanly and accurately.

Further information: circle 323

Adaptable facsimile equipment

Many features not previously available are incorporated into the Mufax series G document fascimile equipment introduced by Muirhead Data Communications Ltd. Mufax Series G, which consists of a transceiver, a receiver and a transmitter, is CCITT group 1 and 2 compatible. This means that, for the first time, the instruments are suitable for use with almost all other manufacturers' facsimile equipment for transmitting documents, letters, graphics, press cuttings, over any distance, using the existing telephone system or private wire circuits.

A feature is the automatic answer-back, which means that the equipment will not transmit until the receiver is ready. A call-back facility stops transmission at any time when required. By the use of a separate system of transmitters and receivers linked to a transceiver, many differing customer requirements can be met. The instruments have full duplex capability, that is simultaneous transmission and receive over suitable network.

The G system gives a wide choice of transmission/reception times, 2, 3, 4 or 6 minutes for an A4 size document. Also the equipment identifies the length of the document so telephone time need not be wasted when a shorter letter or document has to be transmitted. The 6 minute facility allows very small print or diagrams to be transmitted.

Further information: circle 324

Highland business directory

If you're looking for a farrier or a false face manufacturer, a piece of delicate embroidery or a half million tonne concrete oil production platform, you'll find it listed in the new directory 'Business in the Highlands and Islands' published by the Highlands and Islands Development Board. This comprehensive compendium of industry, commerce and public administration with around 15,000 listings detailing a wide range of manufacturers, wholesale and retail outlets and services throughout the area, is available at £8.00 from Publications, Highlands and Islands Development Board, Bridge House, Bank Street, Inverness IVI IRQ.

Smog-eater

Electronic air cleaners suitable for the removal of oil mist, machine smoke, welding smoke, soldering smoke, air borne dust, bacteria, pollen, dirt, tobacco smoke, printing ink mist, in fact, the removal of all forms of air pollution, have been developed by Horizon Mechanical Services (International) Ltd.

The air cleaners are purpose designed units, to handle from 31m³/min (1100 cu ft/min) to 187m³/min (6600 cu ft/min). Larger units can be designed and manufactured to specific requirements.

The units are designed for either free mounting to deal with workshop areas, or alternatively to be ducted to specific sources of fume emission. Each unit comprises a mechanical prefilter, two stage electrostatic precipitator, centrifugal exhaust fan/motor, and a four-way deflecting grille outlet. The mechanical pre-filter and two-stage electrostatic precipitator section is also available without fan for installation in ductwork systems.

Further information: circle 325.

Technology news

Leyland rigs reduce road testing

More than £500,000 is being spent by Leyland Truck and Bus as part of a programme to increase its research and development facilities.

Of this over £250,000 will be used in the development of truck and bus transmissions and £200,000 will be spent on an electro-hydraulic unit capable of simulating road loads imposed on truck components, ranging from a single component to complete vehicles.

The new test rigs are housed at Spurrier Works, Leyland, and represent the first part of a major modernisation and extension programme.

Development of manual, semi and fully automatic gearboxes for advanced trucks and buses is a complicated and time-consuming process if durability and reliability are to be ensured. In the past new transmissions have largely had to be proved by lengthy and costly road testing, but during work on a radically new hydraulic automatic transmission for the prototype B15 double-deck bus, the engineers designed and built their own test rig. This enabled some dynamic drive conditions to be simulated but further road testing was still necessary.

A new rig has now been designed to ensure maximum flexibility: transmissions for the smallest trucks can be tested as well as those for trucks with engine outputs up to 400 bhp. The rig can also test all gears in the box on load and on overrun. Speed, torque and temperature can be controlled and the facility has the capability to test gearboxes with built-in retarders.

One of the necessary features of the transmission rig is its fail-safe capacity. Most test rigs of this type cannot be stopped quickly in the event of component failure, but the rig at Leyland is designed to disengage from full load in 16ms when triggered to do so by an automatic failure-sensing system.

At present it is limited to steady state conditions but future developments may allow reproduction of road route conditions.

One of the features of the electro-hydraulic facility is the ability to impose dynamic loads of from 5 to 25 tons on components ranging from single brackets to complete cab and chassis.

The original unit could handle three channels of base information recorded by vibration sensors on complete vehicles on the test track or road. This information ensures that the test facility simulates conditions which vehicles meet on the road. The extended facility can now accommodate a total of six control channels.

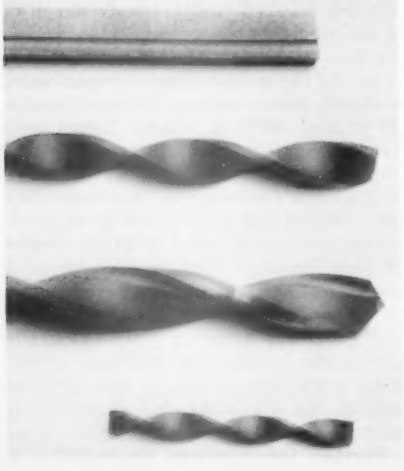
In the past this type of durability testing has usually had to be conducted on complete vehicles, which posed various problems particularly in the large numbers of men and vehicles involved and the dependence on weather and on road being available.

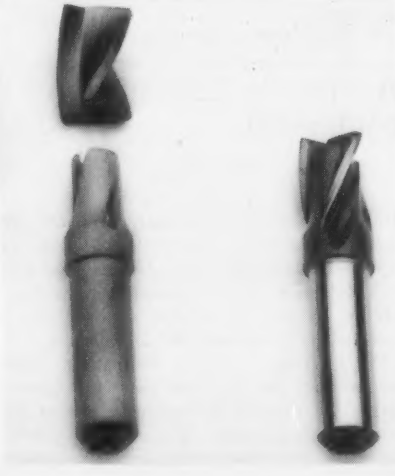
The new facility allows individual components to be tested under precisely the same conditions time after time.

Further information: circle 326

Keeping the cutting edge

Left: helical tungsten carbide tips made by Marwin Cutting Tools of Leicester, designed for numerical control machines. In the 1960s helical tungsten carbide was expensive to produce and inconsistent in shape, but the firm eventually developed a process for their manufacture. A single piece of fully sintered tungsten carbide could then be twisted to form two complete edges and flutes on one operation. Right: triple twisted tips, or cutting head pieces. It is claimed that the production process eliminates the problems associated with shrinkage of the pre-sintered areas when the final sintering takes place. Marwin Cutting Tools has recently won the Queen's award for technological achievement. **Further information: circle 328**





Water report

Those who regard West Germany as a model of industrial efficiency would be surprised to learn that water pollution is one of the country's problems. Because of the heavy demand for water, many rivers are used both as sources of drinking water and as a means of carrying away sewage, leading, in many cases, to increasing pollution. Despite considerable efforts by the responsible authorities, the quality of water being supplied is still deteriorating and the quantity available, for example from ground water, is perhaps even declining. To make matters worse, requirements of large-scale industry are expected to grow by an average of 2 per cent per year between 1976 and 2000.

As a result of the need to use more surface water for the water supply, an increasing number of more complex water purification and filtration plants are required and this is one of the reasons why the price of water is steadily increasing.

The latest issue of 'Technology and the Environment' gives a comprehensive account of water supply and its problems in the US, Japan, Germany, France and the USSR.

UK firms with an interest in the subject can obtain copies free of charge from the Overseas Technical Information Unit, Department of Industry, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 5780 or 6297.

Lens cleaner

Designed to prevent fogging on all types of lenses, an improved formula for Ozicote has been developed by G. H. Wood of Sutton.

Manufactured in the UK and now sold in over 20 countries, it prevents any misting of all types of lenses for up to 24 hours.

In addition to providing for safety and efficiency, the new formula is clearly visible when sprayed on to a surface, so that no area to be treated is missed.

It also offers protection to lenses by prolonging life and scratch resistance especially on plastic lenses, by up to 25 per cent.

The spray, which fits easily into the pocket or handbag, contains a special anti-static ingredient which repels dust particles and loose dirt.

Further information: circle 327

Parliament

Monday, 25 April

Finance for motor vehicle industry

Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what further discussions he planned to hold with British Leyland on the provision of government finance. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the secretary of state whether he proposed to make any changes in the planned future level of financial support from public funds of the motor vehicle industry. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the secretary of state if he will make a statement on the future investment plans of British Leyland.

Mr Varley said a review of British Leyland's plans would be submitted by the National Enterprise Board next month. He did not propose to make any statement about future levels of financial support from public funds until the government had had an opportunity to study the NEB's recommendations. In the case of Chrysler the extent of government assistance was clearly defined in the agreement signed last year and no changes to these levels were planned.

North-east Wales

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would now grant development area status to the whole of north-west Wales.

Mr Varley: 'On 14 April I announced a number of changes in the assisted areas including the designation of the Shotton travel-to-work area as a development area.'

Inner-city industry

William Molloy (Ealing North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what proposals he had for the regeneration of industry in inner-city areas and especially in Greater London.

Mr Williams said the Secretary of State for the Environment outlined a number of proposals on 6 April designed to improve inner city areas. London stood to benefit from these proposals.

Industry in the south-west

Peter Emery (Honiton) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he was taking in Devon and Cornwall to introduce new industries to help to overcome the unacceptable level of unemployment in the sub-region of the south-west.

Mr Williams said that in the assisted parts of the south-west all the normal regional incentives were available to encourage new industrial investment. Throughout the region firms with eligible projects could apply for assistance under the selective investment scheme or appropriate industry schemes.

Japanese tv firms

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked the Secretary of State for Industry which Japanese companies had indicated an interest in establishing colour television manufacturing in the United Kingdom and what reply he had given.

Mr Williams: 'I know of only one Japanese company which is interested at the present time in setting up colour television manufacturing facilities in the UK. All such proposals are looked at by my department from the point of view of the national interest. I should expect any new plant to provide employment in an assisted area, to use UK-manufactured components to the maximum possible extent, to increase exports and to lead to a reduction of imports. The proposal is at present under consideration.'

Merseyside development

Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what steps he was taking to create industrial development on Merseyside, what action he had taken, and what were his plans.

Mr Cryer said firms investing in Merseyside already qualified for the full range of regional incentives. In addition, qualifying firms in Merseyside stood to benefit from the schemes under section 8 of the Industry Act to encourage investment in specific industries and the new selective investment scheme.

Industrial development finance

John MacGregor (South Norfolk) wanted to know the total sum paid out to date under the Industry Act 1972 and the Industry (Amendment) Act 1976; and what proportion had gone to areas other than development areas, special development areas and intermediate areas.

Mr Cryer said that because of the differing nature of assistance measures and the wide geographical spread of undertakings assisted, no precise breakdown between assisted and non-assisted areas was feasible. Payments under all the measures defined by the Industry Act 1972 totalled some £1,975 million. The shipbuilding industry, through loans under the home credit scheme, construction grants and other forms of assistance, accounted for more than £600 million, the benefits of which would be available mostly for the assisted areas. Of the remainder, some £1,025 million had been paid in regional development grants and £170 million under sections 7 and 8 towards investment wholly in the assisted areas. For projects wholly outside the assisted areas, the total assistance paid of all kinds had been £60 million. But some £110 million had been paid under sections 7 and 8 to assist undertakings with activities in both the assisted and non-assisted areas.

Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked for the expenditure on industrial development in the development areas under the Industry Act 1972 for each financial year since its coming into force.

Mr Cryer gave the following information:

EXPENDITURE ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASSISTED AREAS UNDER THE INDUSTRY ACT 1972

£ million

1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
9	133	250	390

NOTES

1 Separate figures for the development areas are not readily available.

2 Regional assistance only is included. Assistance provided under sectoral or industry schemes is excluded since separate figures for the assisted areas are not readily available.

3 Regional assistance under other legislation is excluded.

Employment of the disabled

Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he was taking to increase the number of registered disabled persons employed in his department, and when he expected to achieve the 3 per cent target.

Mr Huckfield said it was the general rule that in recruiting staff directly, his department drew particular attention to the fact that registered disabled persons may apply. He was unable to forecast when the 3 per cent target would be reached as much depended upon rates of recruitment and the number and capabilities of registered disabled persons seeking employment.

Sperm whale products

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked for figures for imports of sperm whale for every year since 1970.

Mr Meacher said the following information for sperm whale products was separately distinguished in the Overseas Trade Statistics:

Metric tons

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Sperm oil	14,341*	11,490*	7,233*	8,534	11,474	7,747	8,528
Spermaceti	23	1,121	70	103	338	119	201
Total	14,364	12,611	7,303	8,637	11,812	7,866	8,729

* Excludes refined sperm oil which is not shown separately in these years.

Mr Hoyle also wanted to know what restrictions were placed by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise on figures relating to imports of sperm whale oil.

Mr Meacher said country and port details were suppressed but monthly total quantities and values of imported sperm whale oil were published.

British Aerospace projects

Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if had decided which new civil aircraft projects should be granted launching aid under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Act during the current financial year. Geoffrey Pattie (Chertsey and Walton) asked the secretary of state whether he was in a position to announce which British Aerospace projects will receive funding support in 1977-78.

Mr Kaufman said: 'British Aerospace, which takes control of the vesting companies this Friday, 29 April, is not yet in a position to reach conclusions on the civil aircraft options before it. British Aerospace will normally finance new projects from its corporate resources, including public dividend capital and borrowing from the National Loans Fund, rather than by launching aid for specific projects.'

Steel industry investment

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, from information available to him from community sources, if he would estimate the investment due to take place in the steel industry as part of the Davignon programme within each member country of the European Coal aad Steel Community and in total over the next five and 10 years; and whether he was satisfied that the increase in productivity and rate of rationalisation of resources would be adequate to sustain a fully competitive industry in Great Britain.

Mr Huckfield: 'No specific proposals for the achievement of longer-term objectives in the community steel policy have been put forward. The British Steel Corporation already has in

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

hand a large capital investment programme designed to achieve a fully competitive steel industry in Britain.'

Plessey redundancies

Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what progress was being made in discussions on the threatened closure of the Plessey factory in Kirkby, and if the company had agreed to keep the factory open and bring in alternative products.

Mr Cryer said discussions between Plessey, the Department of Industry and the Department of Employment about the 4,000 redundancies notified by Plessey were continuing urgently.

Rolls-Royce

Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked what amount of government funds had been made available in Government Expenditure Plans, Cmnd 6721, in support of the corporate plan for Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

Mr Huckfield said Rolls-Royce was funded by the National Enterprise Board for which provision in command paper 6721 was given in table 2.4. It would be for the National Enterprise Board to decide, in consultation where necessary with the Department of Industry, on the allocation from these resources in support of the corporate plan for Rolls-Royce.

Phillip Whitehead (Derby North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what recent discussions he had had with Rolls-Royce about future development of the RB211 engine in conjunction with Lockheed Aircraft.

Mr Huckfield: 'I have had no recent discussions with Rolls-Royce Ltd on this subject.'

Finished steel products

Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) wanted to know the tonnage of tool steels, high-speed steels, and stainless steel bars produced in the United Kingdom in 1976, and an estimate of such production in 1977.

Mr Huckfield said statistics of production were not available, but he gave deliveries from UK production for home and export markets, as shown in the table:

DELIVERIES OF FINISHED STEEL PRODUCTS IN 1976

		Tonnes
Tool, die and magnet steel	Non-alloy	1,466
	Alloy	14,158
High speed steel	Alloy	9,045
Stainless steel bars	Rods and bars in coil	8,229
	Other bars not in coil	9,591
	Bright bars	5,053
	Forged bars	986

Source:
Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau.
Estimates for 1977 are not available.

Wastepaper imports

Sir John Hall (Wycombe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he was taking to reduce the imports of waste paper.

Mr Cryer said no action was being taken to restrain imports, which, net of exports, amount to about 2½ per cent only of the paper and board industry's current usage of waste paper. The Waste Management Advisory Council and the paper and board sector working party were considering what more could be done to increase waste paper recycling in the UK.

Workshops and co-operatives

Mr Corbett asked how many applications for selective financial assistance under the Industry Act had been (a) approved, (b) rejected and (c) are under consideration in the latest convenient 12 months for the establishment of workshops and co-operatives, and how this compared with the position one and two years earlier.

Mr Cryer said one formal application, which was unsuccessful, was received in the 12 months to 31 March 1977. Three successful applications were received in 1974–75, and one successful and one unsuccessful application was received in 1975–76. These figures excluded discussions with potential applicants where the proposal was not pursued or alternative arrangements were made, for which statistics were not available, and excludes recent applications from the established co-operatives of Meriden and KME.

Aircraft co-operation with US?

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would seek a meeting with his United States counterpart to discuss possible collaboration over the development of supersonic civil aircraft. David Price (Eastleigh) asked the secretary of state, what steps he was taking to promote improved marks of the Concorde supersonic airliner, and if these involve extending the current Anglo-French collaboration to include other countries, notably the United States.

Mr Kaufman said: 'When I met the French Secretary of State for Transport on 2 November last we decided not to proceed with the manufacturers' proposals to develop a derived version of Concorde for production in the 1980s. On an advanced supersonic transport for the 1990s, I indicated that the British government considered that it should consolidate the knowledge and experience gained on Concorde, but that our first task must be to establish our priorities in the subsonic field.'

Beer prices

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what study he had made of the latest proposals by the brewers to increase beer prices and if he would refer the proposed increases to the Price Commission.

Mr Fraser said all proposed price increases by the major brewers were, as a matter of course, prenotified to the Price Commission, who may modify or reject them if they did not comply with the terms of the Price Code.

Tuesday, 26 April

Kirkby co-operative

Mr Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for Industry, if he had received an application for financial assistance from the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Company Ltd.

Mr Varley said: 'The workers' co-operative at Kirkby, formally known as the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co, recently sought assistance of £860,000 from my department under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 to help finance its future activity. This would be in addition to the existing grant of £3,900,000 made available to the co-operative in January 1975. The members of the co-operative believe that with this assistance they can succeed and their representatives have assured me that they will not have to apply for any further government assistance in future. I have consulted the Industrial Development Advisory Board who did not recommend support since the proposal does not comply with the criteria for selective financial assistance laid before the House in January 1976. However, in view of the present severe and increasing unemployment in Kirkby, I have decided to offer financial support of £860,000 by way of a grant. The government's financial commitment to this project is limited to this grant. This assistance will give the Co-operative the maximum opportunity to make a success of the venture and thus to secure 775 jobs.'

Research for small firms

Andrew Welsh (South Angus) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what research projects he had sponsored or instituted specifically on small businesses, and at which establishments.

Mr Cryer gave details (see table above) of research projects specifically on small businesses which the Department of Industry was either supporting or had had undertaken on its behalf. He said he hoped to make an announcement shortly about the commissioning by the department of a research study into the management and business education needs of small firms.

Establishment	Project
University of Aston	Study of the terotechnological practices of small firms (completed).
National Computing Centre	The data processing needs of small firms (completed)
Manchester Business School	A collaborative study of the problems and prospects of small business in France, Germany and the United Kingdom (continuing).

Company directors' loans

Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether in view of the practice of company directors borrowing money from their companies either interest-free or at low-interest rates, he would seek to make such practices illegal or to make these company directors pay the normal bank rate for all money borrowed from their companies.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'The government agrees that the provisions of section 190 of the Companies Act 1948, governing loans to directors, need strengthening and expects to put forward proposals later this year. The treatment for tax purposes of beneficial loan arrangements of the kind referred to in the question will be substantially changed as a result of section 66 of the Finance Act 1976.'

Commercial agents and the EEC

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked why progress made in negotiations relating to the proposed EEC directive on the activities of commercial agents had not advanced further.

Mr Meacher said the commission sent this proposal for a directive to the council on 17 December 1976. Consultation of the European parliament and the economic and social committee is mandatory and was in progress. The council was expected to remit the proposal for consideration by a working group.

Companies Act penalties

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would increase the maximum fines permitted for offences under the Companies Acts.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'As already announced, it is intended to bring section 4 of the Companies Act 1976, which increases the maximum fines for late delivery of company accounts, into operation on 1 October 1977. In addition, the Criminal Law Bill, which is currently before parliament, would have the effect of increasing many of the maximum fines under the Companies Acts. Consideration is also being given, in the preparation of future legislation relating to companies, to increasing further the penalties for certain offences under the Companies Acts.'

Investment overseas

Mr Clarke asked for a table showing in real terms the level of British capital investment overseas and in the EEC, the Commonwealth, the United States of America and elsewhere, respectively, in each of the last 10 years.

Mr Meacher said the information available (see below) related to net private direct investment overseas excluding oil. No area breakdown was yet available for 1975 and 1976. The current values had not been expressed in terms of constant prices because there are no suitable price deflators.

UK NET PRIVATE DIRECT INVESTMENT OVERSEAS(1) £ million

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
EEC(2)	32	51	30	73	105	78	263	223	519	364
Commonwealth(3)	148	113	128	166	265	216	176	213	465	425
United States	23	42	52	84	54	134	129	105	377	398
Other countries	105	70	71	87	125	118	107	196	260	389
Total(4)	308	276	281	410	549	546	676	737	1,621	1,575

(1) Excluding oil
(2) The original six member states up to 1972; the eight other member states thereafter
(3) Including Pakistan up to 1971 and Bangladesh from 1972
(4) Components do not always add to the total because each figure has been rounded independently.

NEB capital
Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked how much public dividend capital had been issued to the National Enterprise Board since it started to the present date.

Mr Huckfield gave a figure of £70,409,427.

Non-scheduled flights
Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would initiate discussions with other interested governments to achieve some agreement on the operation of non-scheduled airline operations.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'The rules to apply to these flights are already discussed with a number of governments, most frequently with other member states of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and with the United States. Flights within Europe are mostly covered by the multilateral agreement between European states of 1956 or by ECAC recommendations, and on the North Atlantic by understandings with the United States and Canada.'

Wednesday, 27 April

Multinational corporations
Jim Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what progress was being made with the operations of OECD guidelines on multinational investment in the United Kingdom, and if the guidelines required further strengthening.

Mr Williams: 'The OECD package, agreed in June 1976, on international investment was published in Cmnd 6525 in which I commended to UK companies the guidelines for multinational enterprises. The CBI and TUC gave their support and have also taken steps to bring the guidelines to the attention of British industry and trade unions. I believe that more experience is needed to evaluate the operation of the guidelines. The package is to be reviewed by mid-1979 and we shall draw on the experience gained through the OECD's intergovernmental consultation machinery which provides the main forum for monitoring and review.'

Employees in assisted areas
Mr Clarke wanted to know the percentage of British employees working in development, special development and intermediate areas, respectively, following the recent changes in those areas.

Mr Cryer said the percentages were 10.7, 13.1 and 19.4, respectively.

Statute for European companies
John Wakeham (Maldon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade for a statement on the proposal for an EEC council regulation on the statute for European companies.

Mr Clinton Davis said the government had received a number of representations about the difficulties which might arise where the provisions of the draft statute for European companies conflicted with those of national laws and with the work on the draft directives on company law. The draft statute was being given a first reading in an ad hoc working group of officials of the EEC council of ministers. He doubted whether the difficulties could be resolved quickly.

Thursday, 28 April

Assisted areas
Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked for an estimate of the additional cost to public funds of the recent changes in assisted areas.

Mr Cryer replied: 'Some £3.5 million a year once the full savings from the creation of the new intermediate areas have been realised.'

Finance for industry
Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for the total sums made available by his department in each of the last three financial years to British industry by way either of grant or loan at non-commercial interest dates.

Mr Huckfield said the total grants and loans made by his department to private industry in the last three years at 1976 Survey prices were as follows:

£ million

1974/75	1975/76	1976/77 (estimate)
663	606	599

Departmental records did not distinguish between loans made at commercial and non-commercial rates.

Cars, whisky and tourism
Mr Clarke asked for a table showing a comparison of the export or foreign currency earnings of the motor vehicle, whisky and tourist industries in each of the last 10 years.

Mr Meacher gave figures of export sales of the motor vehicle industry and of exports of whisky.

EXPORTS £ million (fob)

	Motor vehicle industry(1)	Whisky(2)
1967	495(3)	122
1968	622(3)	177
1969	762(3)	167
1970	808	194
1971	957	227
1972	885	228
1973	1,056	260
1974	1,296	326
1975	1,724	367
1976	2,232(4)	437

(1) Export sales of principal products of the motor vehicle industry as defined by Minimum List Heading 381 of the Standard Industrial Classification, 1968. Sales based on overseas trade statistics.
(2) Commodity information from overseas trade statistics.
(3) Estimated.
(4) Provisional.

For the tourist industry, he said, the most appropriate information was the expenditure in the United Kingdom by overseas residents shown as the credit item of the travel account of the balance of payments. The latest figures for 1975 and 1976 were £1,123 million and £1,628 million respectively.

Friday, 29 April

Food subsidies
Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he had any plans for further changes in food subsidies.

Mr Hattersley said: 'As part of the planned run-down of the food subsidy programme for 1977-78 I have decided to end the household flour subsidy with effect from 1 May. The subsidy is at present worth 1p per pound at the retail level and costs about £8 million a year. Decisions on the ending of the remaining subsidies in milk, cheese and bread have yet to be taken and will be announced nearer the time.'

Japanese tv firms
Edward Lyons (Bradford West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what reduction in imports of colour television sets into the United Kingdom had taken place as a result of the establishment of colour television manufacturing facilities by Japanese companies in the United Kingdom.

Mr Williams said there had been a reduction in imports of colour television sets into the UK from Japan; but what part was attributable to the establishment of colour television manufacturing facilities by Japanese companies in the UK could not be stated.

Mr Lyons asked what proportion of the output of Japanese colour television sets manufactured in Wales was exported in 1976.

Mr Williams said only two such firms were in operation. Export figures from individual companies were confidential.

Knitting industry
Mr Clarke asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action had been taken on the recommendation of the National Economic Development Office working sector report for the knitting industry that an export agency should be created to help small firms to form consortia or take co-operative action on overseas sales of knitting products.

Mr Cryer said that, following an offer from his department to consider making funds available for a feasibility study, representatives of the industry were considering whether to proceed with the proposal.

Aircraft fuel
Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to what extent United Kingdom aircraft operators used Jet A rather than Jet B fuel, what were the relative implications of the two fuels so far as fire hazard in aircraft accidents was concerned, and whether he was satisfied that United Kingdom operators should continue to be allowed to use Jet B.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'The approval of fuels for use in aircraft on the United Kingdom register is a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority and I am advised by the authority that, while all UK registered turbine engined aircraft are certificated to use either Jet A or Jet B fuel, all UK operators use Jet A fuel as a matter of preference and in accordance with the CAA's own published advice. Jet B fuel is likely to be used only in the now very rare circumstances when supplies of Jet A are not available. The safety issues which arise are also matters for the

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Civil Aviation Authority, and with regard to fire hazard in an aircraft accident, the authority advise me that if the crash is a major one the type of fuel is of little consequence but if it is a potentially survivable accident the rate of spread of fire, if it occurs, is likely to be somewhat less with Jet A than with Jet B fuel.'

Oil slicks on Gower coast

Ifor Davies (Gower) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he was satisfied with the contingency plans of his department for dealing with oil slicks on the Gower coast and if he would seek to take action against ships discharging their waste material into the open sea.

Mr Clinton Davis: 'My department, which works closely with local authorities in the protection of the coast from oil pollution, has anti-pollution resources located at Swansea and Milford Haven. In October last, the department staged a major oil pollution exercise specifically to test the adequacy of the contingency arrangements for the protection of the Gower peninsular from oil spills at sea. Lessons learned from such exercises are applied for the improvement of the contingency plans. The department follows up all reports of alleged discharges of oily wastes by ships, and takes appropriate action against offenders under the Prevention of Oil Pollution Act 1971.'

Trade with the USSR

John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what progress had been made in fulfilling the long-term programme for the development of economic and industrial co-operation between the United Kingdom and the USSR, and what effect it had had on the balance of payments.

Mr Meacher: 'Since the signature of the long-term economic and industrial programme with the Soviet Union in February 1975, there have been negotiations between British companies and Soviet organisations on many of the items in the programme, leading to the signature of some major contracts, for example the contracts for forging and manipulating machinery won by Davy Loewy in February and April 1976, valued at nearly £25 million, and the contract for a high-density polyethylene plant awarded to Constructors John Brown in February of this year valued at over £46 million. Other negotiations for major contracts within the co-operation programme are being actively pursued by a number of British companies.

'Some other major contracts have meanwhile been concluded for items not in the co-operation programme, notably the contract awarded last December to the British consortium Coberrow Ltd for gas pumps, valued at over £87 million.

'In all, contracts worth over £188 million have been awarded to British companies since February 1975 within the terms of the credit agreement concluded that month. Of this almost £174 million represents UK content.

'Although our exports to the Soviet Union increased from £110 million in 1974 to about £240 million last year, representing an estimated 50 per cent increase in volume, I am still not satisfied with the level of business which we are winning in the Soviet Union. I intend to press the Russians for the early conclusion of further contracts with British firms when I visit Moscow next month for the annual meeting of the British/Soviet joint commission.'

Car exports to EEC and Japan

Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for the total number of motor cars exported to other member states of the EEC and to Japan, respectively, during the first quarter of 1977 and for the same period during 1966.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

UK EXPORTS OF MOTOR CARS(1)

	Numbers	
	To EEC(2)	To Japan
First quarter of 1977	35,502	386
First quarter of 1966	40,042(3)	n.a.

(1) SITC code 732.1.
(2) Existing eight member states.
(3) Excluding used cars (the numbers of which would be comparatively small).
n.a. = not available.
Current information is published in 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom'.

Current information is published in Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom.

Motor-cycle industry

Mr Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total amount of money made available to the British motor-cycle industry under the Industry Act since October 1974.

Mr Cryer gave the figures of £4.475 million in the form of loans and £950,000 in the form of grants. A further grant of up to £500,000 was to be made available to Meriden Motor Cycles Ltd to purchase marketing assets from Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd when negotiations between the two companies had been concluded.

Mr Shersby asked for the number and value of British motor-cycles exported to and imported from the Federal Republic of Germany during the first quarter of 1977 and comparable figures for the first quarter of 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

UK TRADE IN MOTOR-CYCLES* WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

	Exports		Imports	
	No.	£'000 (fob)	No.	£'000 (cif)
First quarter of 1977	617	516	633	804
First quarter of 1976	27	18	360	309

* SITC item code 732.91.

Trade with Middle East countries

A. J. Beith (Berwick upon Tweed) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he had given any advice to firms wishing to trade with Middle East countries as to whether or not they should complete at the request of the governments of those countries forms asking if any of their directors are Jews, and whether he would make a statement.

Mr. Meacher: 'Many firms with Jewish directors trade successfully with Middle East countries and this is made clear to inquiring firms.'

ECGD and disabled persons

Mrs Chalker asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he was taking to increase the number of registered disabled persons employed in the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Department of Trade, and when he expected to achieve the 3 per cent target in each case.

Mr Meacher said: 'It is the normal practice of my department and the Export Credits Guarantee Department when recruiting staff directly to stress that registered disabled persons may apply. Additionally, it is our practice to keep in touch with appropriate Department of Employment Job Centres, who are well aware of the needs of the registered disabled, when we are recruiting. Achievement of the 3 per cent target is conditioned by recruitment needs and the number and capabilities of registered disabled persons applying for employment. In accordance with the Civil Service Department's code of practice preference would be given to a disabled person over a non-disabled person if otherwise the respective merits of candidates are fairly evenly balanced. It is therefore not possible to estimate when the target may be reached.'

Industrial publicity

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest regional office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277 NTYNE).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, New Station Street, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex 55472 COI DOE – G).

East Midland: Mr A. Waller, Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW (Tel: 0602 56181 – Telex 37572 COINOT – G)

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LL (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187 COICAM – G).

London & South Eastern*: Mr A. J. Goodson, St Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 COI FORLANG LDN, message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 580463 – Telex 848216 CENTROFORM RDG).

South Western: Mr P. D. Yorke, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203 COIBSL – G).

West Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Middle Way, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 337576 COIBHAM).

North Western: Mr P. B. Porter, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830 CENTROFORM MCHR).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-928 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

European community news

Fundamental change needed in CAP – Hattersley

Europe needs a wholly different attitude towards its prices policy, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection told the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs in Blackpool on 30 April. He said that the butter mountain and the wine lake were no more than visible symptoms of the policy's inadequacy.

It was fundamentally unacceptable, he went on, that the community should continue to create such surpluses, and that the community should continue to encourage such surplus production, by keeping support prices unnaturally high. It was preposterous that within the EEC the price of commodities in almost permanent surplus should be so increased that farmers were encouraged to produce even more. It was absurd that prices should be carefully calculated to keep the least efficient farmer in business, and that the surplus production which was exported, destroyed or hidden away should almost invariably be produced at figures well above the average cost.

Mr Hattersley said he was aware that the UK had a natural advantage. British farmers were historically efficient. 'We became so suddenly when the enclosures filled the factories and amalgamated the small farms and began the long tradition of British agricultural excellence. But what we did brutally two hundred years ago the EEC ought to be able to do with compassion now.' The community could not, for example, constantly increase the price of milk and consequently increase the quantity of milk produced when there was already such a surplus that milk or milk products would either flood the market or be disposed of in some wholly artificial way.

There were schemes to impose some marginal financial burden which, in theory at least, would push some of the least efficient farmers over the edge of economic viability. But if that had any practical efficiency at all it would do no more than make the most marginal adjustments to the problem.

What Europe needed was a wholly different attitude towards its prices policy – not necessarily the abandonment of agricultural support but an acceptance that common prices must be more related to the needs of the market. Prices should simply be nearer the level which producers supplied, more nearly related to its real demands. The market must to a degree be managed, but it ought not to be managed in such a way that consumers were financing production which they did not want, and therefore paying prices which were unnecessarily and artificially high.

Mr Hattersley said that he accepted that operating such a novel system as the equation of supply and demand within the CAP would mean that many inefficient farmers would go out of business. This he regarded as a social rather than an agricultural problem. Europe was going through a period of massive economic change; inefficient units at the margin of every industry were closing down.

'But we have improved since the days of the enclosures because we have learnt a little since the industrial revolution', he said. 'We compensate workers for their redundancy, we re-train them and we find new jobs in which they can exercise their new skills. We certainly do not expect the cost of such a process to be borne by consumers in the industry which they have left.'

It was impossible, he said, to justify those schemes within the EEC which helped farmers simply through adding their social costs to the prices paid by agricultural consumers. The community would have to buy out thousands of inefficient farmers. Until it did, there would not be an efficient pricing policy. Until there was, the community would remain at its present level of severe and potentially disastrous unpopularity.

Nonetheless, Mr Hattersley emphasised his view was that Britain's future lay within the EEC – playing a full and enthusiastic part in all the institutions of the community, doing its best to make the EEC work in the UK's interests and in the interests of other member nations.

EEC plans for river cleanliness 'too severe'

EEC plans for cleaning up rivers are unrealistic and too severe, Ken Marks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said on 25 April.

Speaking in London at the presentation of the Angling Foundation awards to industry Mr Marks said that nine months previously the European commission had put forward proposals for waters to be designated as capable of supporting freshwater fish and negotiations on them were currently under way in Brussels. Although these proposals were consistent with UK policy for pollution control in that they proposed quality requirements for rivers, virtually all informed opinion in the UK took the view – and it was a view shared by the government – that they were unrealistically and unnecessarily severe. In some cases the values proposed were more stringent than those recommended by a group of scientific experts which advised the commission, and they were more stringent than would be needed to achieve the commission's stated objectives. Although most rivers in the UK supported thriving fish populations, Mr Marks said, many could not meet all the proposed standards. Standards which were unnecessarily stringent could lead to only a few rivers being formally designated as fishing rivers so that the directive's usefulness would be restricted, he added.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New EIB loan for water supply project

A loan totalling the equivalent of £7.5 million (11.5 million units of account) has been granted to the National Water Council (NWC) by the European Investment Bank.

The funds – provided for 15 years at an interest rate of 9¼ per cent – will be passed on to the Northumbrian Water Authority to finance a water supply project and a sewerage scheme in Teesside.

Costing in the region of £38 million, the works include two new intakes on the river Tees to provide additional quantities of raw water to industrial users plus a series of sewers on both sides of the river and a treatment works at Portrack.

The improvement of water supplies and construction of an adequate sewerage infrastructure are key factors in the future industrial development of Teesside.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408. Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 750/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1380/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts (*Official Journal* L91, 13 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 773/77 amending regulation (EEC) 193/75 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products (*Official Journal* L94, 16 April 1977).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 782/77 amending regulation (EEC) 589/68 on detailed rules for the sale of olive oil held by intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L95, 19 April 1977).

Tobacco. Regulation (EEC) 784/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1728/70 fixing the scales of price increases and reductions for raw tobacco (*Official Journal* L95, 19 April 1977).

Seeds and plants. The *Official Journal* L95, 19 April 1977, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 77/281/EEC extending for Germany in respect of a certain number of varieties the period provided for in article 15(1) of directive 70/457/EEC.

Decision 77/282/EEC authorising France to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of agricultural plant species.

Decision 77/283/EEC authorising the UK to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of agricultural plant species.

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 799/77 amending regulation (EEC) 142/77 fixing an additional rate for determining the quantities of alcohol to be delivered as part of the wine deliveries for the 1976/77 wine-growing year (*Official Journal* L97, 21 April 1977).

Pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 801/77 on special conditions for the granting of private storage aid for pigmeat (*Official Journal* L97, 21 April 1977).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 807/77 concerning the sale of skimmed-milk powder transferred to Italy pursuant to regulation (EEC) 563/76 (*Official Journal* L98, 22 April 1977).

Animal health. Decision 77/293/EEC amending decision 77/268/EEC on certain measures to prevent the spread of classical swine fever (*Official Journal* L98, 22 April 1977).

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L74, 22 March 1977, contains the text of decision 77/234/EEC authorising France to apply protective measures to imports of live sheep falling within subheading 01.04 AIb) of the common customs tariff and mutton and lamb falling within subheading 02.01 A ex IV thereof, originating in third countries and in free circulation in the other member states.

Commercial policy

Processed agricultural products. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L97, 21 April 1977, contains the text of decision 77/289/EEC authorising Ireland to take protective measures in respect of certain processed agricultural products under article 135 of the act of accession. This relates to trade between the UK and Ireland in certain goods falling into CCT heading 17.04, 18.06, 19.08, 21.07, 20.05.

Valuation of imported goods, July-Dec 1977

Until 30 June this year, 'place' for the purposes of valuation of imported goods for *ad valorem* duty on customs import entries is the port or place of importation into the UK. But after that date goods are to be valued as if delivered to the buyer at the place of introduction into the customs territory of the European community. The 'place of introduction' is defined in article 6 of regulation (EEC) 803/68.

However, certain goods (mainly horticultural) imported in the course of trade within the community will continue to be liable to *ad valorem* duty until 31 December 1977. For such goods the value is to continue to be declared on the basis of a delivery to the buyer at the port or place of importation into the UK.

For statistical purposes the value to be declared on import entries for goods subject to *ad valorem* duty will be the value for customs duty purposes. For goods free or exempted from duty, including goods in free circulation within the community, and for goods subject to a specific duty, the value to be declared will be, as at present, the cif value at the port or place of importation into the UK.

The value to be declared on import entries for VAT purposes will continue to be the value of the goods as defined for *ad valorem* duty purposes (whether or not the goods are actually liable to *ad valorem* duty), plus any customs duty or levy payable on importation of the goods into the customs territory of the community, together with any excise duty payable on importation of the goods into the UK (see section 11 of the Finance Act, 1972).

New EEC documents

This list of EEC documents was deposited in the Commons during the week ended 27 April (commission reference numbers, where appropriate, are given in parentheses).

The documents are available for consultation at the European Communities Commission Information Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

EEC Draft Instruments

S/609/77 (COM(77)135)
Proposal for a Council Regulation extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on ball bearings, tapered roller bearings and parts thereof originating in Japan.

S/610/77 (COM(77)131)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) maintaining in force the arrangements governing imports into the Community of shirts and blouses originating in the Republic of India.

S/410/77 Add. 1 (COM(77)45 Final/2)
Co-operation Agreement with Lebanon – financial statement.

S/611/77 (COM(77)68)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the application of the provisions of Protocol No. 1 to the Co-operation Agreements concluded with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

R/880/77 (COM(77)116)
Amendments to proposals for Council Regulations (EEC): on the fixing of rates for international goods transport by rail; on a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States; on a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by inland waterway between Member States.

R/863/77 (COM(77)141)
Amendment to the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3330/74 on the common organisation of the market in sugar (R/360/77 (AGRI 107) (FIN 76), Volume II, p. 35): Amendment to the proposal for a Regulation on the granting of a consumer subsidy for butter (R/360/77 (AGRI 107) (FIN 76), Volume II, p. 116).

R/882/77 (COM(77)126)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector.

R/886/77 (COM(77)118)
Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 on the common organisation of the market in cereals.

R/900/77 (COM(77)122)
Amended Proposal, in accordance with Articles 149/EEC and 119/EAEC, for Title VII – Special provisions applicable to research and investment appropriations – of the Council Regulation (ECSC, EEC, EURATOM) amending the Financial Regulation of 25th April 1973 applicable to the General Budget of the European Communities.

S/617/77 (COM(77)121)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines of designation or of origin, falling within heading No. ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Algeria (1977-78).

R/879/77 (COM(77)142)
Proposals for Council Regulations: amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2749/76 on the reduction in the levy applicable to certain imports of feed grain into the Italian Republic as from the 1973-74 marketing year; amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector; on the grant of a premium for the birth of calves during the 1977-78 marketing year.

R/2955/76 Add. 1 (COM(76)611 Final/2)
Proposal for a Council Directive on the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated enterprises (arbitration procedure).

R/956/77 (COM(77)152)
Proposal for a Council Regulation extending the prohibition on the fishing of herring in the North Sea.

Consultative Documents

R/866/77 (COM(77)140)
Commission communication to the Council concerning Mediterranean agricultural problems.

R/623/77 (COM(77)26)
Fourth Commission report to the Council on the results obtained using the accounting system for expenditure on, and from the survey of utilisation of rail, road and inland waterway transport infrastructures – 1974.

R/878/77
Publication of the general budget of the European Communities in the *Official Journal*.

Davis explains progress on insurance

An initiative on insurance was taken in the council of ministers by the UK government earlier this year, Stanley Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons on 27 April. The government had secured agreement that directives on life establishment and freedom of services for non-life insurance should be adopted speedily; if not, a further report would have to be made to the European ministers next March.

Mr Davis made the point that the insurance common market had not yet made much progress. Despite a mandate from the council of ministers requiring the whole insurance common market to be established by the end of 1969, the only directives in operation when the UK joined the community were those covering motor insurance and reinsurance, which was not supervised in most other member states.

The main reason for this lay in the substantial differences in attitude which existed between member states. International trade was not a matter which was of major significance to the insurance industries of most of the other members of the community. For the UK, different considerations applied. London was the centre of the international insurance market. In some European countries, insurance industries were subject to a rigid system of controls, including controls of tariffs and policy conditions.

Given their traditional tight protective system and, in consequence, the small part played in international trade by their companies, Mr Davis said he thought that it was fair to say that most of the member states had little interest in the directives and in establishing a common market in insurance. This was unfortunate because, as a result, not only was the UK denied expected earnings from Europe, but Europe was unable to provide the necessary base from which the European insurers as a whole might compete for business throughout the world. Unquestionably the business was there, particularly in the larger and larger risks that had to be covered. It was the UK's desire to see member states competing effectively for this business and not held in a straitjacket.

Mr Davis explained that discussions had been continuing at council level since the end of 1974. He did not know when they would end but the major points of disagreement were beginning to crystallise. They concerned the operations of composite companies and the composition of minimum solvency margins.

Progress on EEC social security regulations

Discussions are being held on social security regulations within the community and have progressed to the stage where it is hoped that the EEC commission may shortly be able to propose to the council an amending regulation which will cover self-employed persons. Stanley Orme, Minister for Social Security, explained this point in answer to a Commons question on 28 April. He said that in addition a recent judgment of the European court had enabled a small number of self-employed persons, who had previously been employed and paid employed persons contributions, to be regarded as within the scope of the existing regulations under certain conditions.

Self-employed persons affected by this recent judgment of the European court were those resident in the UK who, though being over pension age and not yet retired, had a provisional title to a pension and had at some time in their life been employed persons and paid employed persons contributions under the UK social security scheme; and self-employed persons under pension age resident in the UK, in certain circumstances, had recently been employed persons and had paid employed persons contributions under the British scheme within a period varying from nine months to two years and nine months prior to the date on which they claimed benefit under the EEC regulations.

Self-employed persons who thought they might fall into either of these categories and who wished to take advantage of the EEC regulations for the purpose of covering themselves for urgent medical treatment while visiting another member state, should obtain the necessary form of application in leaflet SA 28 obtainable from all social security offices, from whom further information could be obtained, if necessary, about other benefits covered by the regulations, Mr Orme pointed out.

It is the government's policy to press for the extension of the EEC regulations to cover all UK citizens, he concluded.

Support for UK food harmonisation initiative

The UK has for some time been concerned at the way the community's activities in the field of food harmonisation have been developing, Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food told the Commons on 21 April. He was speaking during a debate on two EEC draft directives covering food labelling and jams and marmalades.

This concern had now found expression in action in Brussels during the UK's presidency of the council, he continued. The presidency offered a unique opportunity to institute a thorough discussion of the future orientation of the programme with a view to achieving agreement on how, taking account of all considerations, a sensible method of working in the community might best be settled.

Food law, Mr Strang explained, had developed on a national basis and reflected different consumer tastes and dietary patterns. It was hardly surprising that they differed to a greater or lesser degree in member states. These differences could and often did constitute non-tariff barriers to intra-community trade. For this reason the community was working on a food harmonisation programme which was last revised in 1973 with the object of removing these barriers.

This programme embraced both horizontal directives dealing with a particular aspect of foodstuffs in general, such as the labelling directives or those dealing with additives, Mr Strang explained, and vertical directives covering the composition and labelling of a particular foodstuff of which the directive on jam was an example.

The UK was in agreement with the need to eliminate barriers to trade and to protect the consumer. The traditional UK approach had, in general, been to concentrate on the horizontal aspect of control so as to ensure that all food was safe, wholesome and accurately labelled, and only to impose vertical regulations where the independent expert committees that advise on these matters had recommended such action. This offered the maximum advantage to both manufacturers and consumers.

The commission itself said Mr Strang, had now spoken out in favour of giving priority to horizontal directives rather than the vertical variety and against harmonisation for harmonisation's sake and other member states were coming to appreciate that attempting to tackle too much at once on an unselective basis could only diffuse the available resources so that concrete results were meagre.

Discussions continue

Discussions on the future orientation of the programme were still continuing in Brussels, but the first reaction of other member states had been almost unanimous support for UK ideas, Mr Strang said.

Commission approves contributions for UK research programmes

Approval for 10 research projects in Britain to be given financial support from the EEC has been announced by the commission:

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Research programme aimed at comparative studies of steady state on a high-pressure water reactor of the Fessenheim type. Total cost: £33,070. Commission contribution: £16,535.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Research programme aimed at comparative studies (dynamic) on a high-pressure water reactor of the Fessenheim type. Total cost: £65,936. Commission contribution: £32,968.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Pulse radiolysis of aqueous solutions of purines and related compounds. Total cost: £13,550. Commission contribution over the period 1 September 1976 to 31 December 1980: £5,420.

G. V. Planer Ltd. Development of low-cost cadmium sulphide sintered ceramic ribbon solar cells for terrestrial applications. Total cost: £69,146. Commission contribution over 18 months: £31,807.

Polytechnic of Central London. Multiple solar house project development of solar heating for use in mass-market housing. Total

cost: £58,475. Commission contribution over nine months: £12,864.

Polytechnic of Central London. Microdosimetry of lung. Total cost: £18,690. Commission contribution over the period 1 January 1977 to 30 June 1979: £7,476.

MRC Hammersmith Hospital, Cyclotron Unit. Exposure to radiation from medical diagnostic procedures. Total cost: £187,500. Commission contribution over the period 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1979: £75,000.

University of Oxford, Department of Geology and Mineralogy. The aim of this project is to determine the heat flow in new bore-holes in Great Britain. Total cost: £40,145. Commission contribution over one year: £25,840.

University of Leeds. Research in the field of solar energy 'Development of the solar wall'. Total cost: £22,005. Commission contribution over three years: £11,553.

Ferranti Ltd. The development of a screen printed contact technique, associated with conversion efficiency enhancements and other manufacturing process economies, to reduce the cost of silicon solar cells to below £10 per watt, in array form. Total cost: £72,975. Commission contribution over 18 months: £39,771.

Official publications on community matters

The following publications, issued during the period 7 March to 30 April 1977 can be ordered from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, quoting the standard book number in parentheses after each title.

Parliament

Command papers

6737: European Communities No. 1 (1977) Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending Protocol No. 6 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland. Brussels, 29 June 1976. [The Agreement was made under Article 113 of the Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community.] 4 pp. (0 10 167370 1). 15p (21½p).

6743: European Communities Treaty Series No. 25 (1977) Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Council, establishing supervision for imports of certain products originating in Sweden (1976). Brussels, 20 January 1976. 4 pp. (0 10 167430 9) 15p (21½p).

6744: Treaty Series No. 26 (1977). Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Council establishing supervision for imports of certain Products originating in Austria (1976). Brussels, 20 January 1976. 4 pp. (0 10 167440 6). 15p (21½p).

6757: European Communities No. 2 (1977). Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending the English Version of Table II of Protocol 2 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation. Brussels, 14 December 1976. The Agreement was made under Article 113 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community. 4 pp. (0 10 167570 4). 15p (21½p).

6768: Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Direct Elections to the European Assembly. 28 pp. (0 10 167680 8). 60p (66½p).

House of Commons papers (session 1976-77).

12th Report from the Select Committee on European Legislation, etc., together with the proceedings of the Committee, Energy Situation, Economic Policies and Guidelines 1976 and 1977. 16 pp. (0 10 281777 4). 35p (41½p).

13th Report from the Select Committee on European Legislations etc. Together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Sub-Committee II and Sub-Committee A of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities on 16 December 1976, 20 January and 27 January 1977: and Appendices. European Regional Development Fund. 98 pp. (0 10 282277 8). £1.50 (£1.61).

14th Report from the Select Committee on European Legislation, etc., together with the Proceedings on the Committee. Fishieries Resources. Dentists and Senior Public Health Officials. 16 pp. (0 10 282377 4). 35p (41½p).

15th Report from the Select Committee on European Legislation etc., together with the Proceedings of the Committee. Illegal Immigration. Aid to Developing Countries. 12 pp. (0 10 283977 8). 25p (31½p).

Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on European Legislation, etc., 9 March 1977. pp. 31-41. (0 10 284077 6). 60p (66½p).

House of Lords papers and bills (session 1976-77).

5th Report, Select Committee on the European Communities. R/1919/76: Sardines. 12pp. (0 10 402077 6). 25p (31½p).

23rd Report, Select Committee on the European Communities. EEC Farm Prices 1977-78. R/360/77. Commission Proposals on fixing the prices for certain Agricultural Products and Certain Related Measures. 20 pp. (0 10 409777 9). 35p (41½p).

Appendices to the 23rd Report Select Committee on the European Communities. EEC Farm Prices 1977-78, R/360/77. Commission Proposals on Fixing the prices for Certain Agricultural Products and Certain Related Measures. 46 pp. (0 10 452177 5). £1.25. (£1.34).

13th Report of the Select Committee on the European Communities EEC Regional Policy Com(76)307. 1st Annual Report on the European Regional Development Fund, together with Minute of Defence. 109 pp. (0 10 407577 5). £1.60 (£1.74).

11th Report. Select Committee on the European Communities, European Social Policy: R/1031/76 Observations of the Committee of the European Social Fund for the Council. R/1036/76 Revised First European Social Budget (1970-75). R/2037/76 Fourth Report on the Activities of the New European Social Fund – 1975 Financial year. R/2967/76 Aide-memoire Concerning the Social Action Programme. 53 pp. (0 10 40677 8). £1.25 (£1.34).

14th Report. Select Committee on the European Communities. Insurance R/95/76: Draft Directive on the Coordination of Laws Relating to Direct Insurance other than Life Assurance and laying down provisions to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom to provide services. 32 pp. (0 10 407677 1). 85p (91½p).

20th Report. Select Committee on the European Communities. Illegal Immigration. R/2655/76: Draft Directive on the Harmonisation of Laws to combat Illegal Immigration and Illegal Employment. 36 pp. (0 10 409177 0). £1.00 (£1.06).

17th Report Select Committee on the European Communities. EEC Environment Policy. R/1966/76: Toxic and Dangerous Wastes. 12 pp. (0 10 408877 X). 25p (31½p).

26th Report Select Committee on the European Communities. Fortnightly Report 5 April 1977. 1. Ninth Sift of EEC Proposals. 2. Annex. 16 pp. (0 10 412677 9). 35p (41½p).

16th Report Select Committee on the European Communities. EEC Environment Policy. R/1628/76: Commission Interim Report on some Persistent Organo Chlorine Compounds. With Minutes of Evidence. 18 pp. (0 10 408777 3). 75p (81½p).

Commission of the European Communities

Report on the ECSC Experimental Programme of Modernisation of Housing. 1975. 368 pp. Illus. (0 11 936278 3). £11.60 (£12.15).

Tenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities, 1976. February 1977. 340 pp. (0 11 936277 5). £2.40 (£2.87).

Graphs and Notes on the Economic Situation in the Community. 1, 1977. 16 pp. (0 11 936296 1). 85p. (94p).

Graphs and Notes on the Economic Situation in the Community. 2 – 1977. 16 pp. illus. (0 11 936353 4). £1.30 (£1.36).

Competition – Approximation of Legislation Series – 1976 – No. 26. Report by the Commission on the Behaviour of the Oil Companies in the Community during the period from October 1973 to March 1974. December 1975. 168 pp. (0 11 936298 8). £2.20 (£2.46).

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the Pharmaceutical Industry for the United Kingdom. October 1975. (By Professor J. B. Heath and others). 168 pp. (0 11 936313 5). £2.65 (£2.97).

Bulletin of the European Communities (ECSC, EEC, EAEC). 10th Year, 1977. No. 1. 132 pp. (0 11 936320 8). £1.20 (£1.40).

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the Danish Food Distribution Industry. Part 1: Concentration in the Danish Food Distribution System. Part 2: The First and the Second Price Surveys in Denmark. November 1976. 292 pp. (0 11 936318 4). £4.30 (£4.77).

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the Dutch Paper products Industry. November 1976. 90 pp. (0 11 936317 8). £1.60 (£1.77).

Results of the Business Survey carried out among Managements in the Community. 2-1977. 108 pp., illus. (0 11 936335 6). £4.30 (£4.50).

The Economic Situation in the Community. 14 – 1976. December 1976. (With Corrigendum). 98 pp., illus. (0 11 936334 8). £3.75 (£3.95).

Vocational Training. Information Bulletin. No 3. September 1976. 27 pp. (0 11 936343 7). 85p (96p).

Programme of the Commission for 1977. February 1977. 56 pp. (0 11 936556 9). 80p (91p).

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Special Series 2. Input-Output Table. United Kingdom – 1970. 82 pp. + 3 folded inserts. (0 11 936279 1). £4.25 (£4.54).

Crop Production. 11 – 1976. 78 pp. (0 11 936284 8). £2.50 (£2.70).

Crop Production. 1 – 1977. 74 pp. (0 11 936388 7). £2.85 (£3.05).

Electrical Energy. Monthly Bulletin. 1/2 – 1977. 18 pp. (0 11 936294 6). 35 p. (44p).

Electrical Energy. Monthly Bulletin. 3 – 1977. 12 pp. loose-leaf. (0 11 936315 1). 35p (41½p).

Quarterly Bulletin of Energy Statistics. 4 – 1976. 130 pp. (0 11 936295 3). £3.75 (£4.04).

Monthly Statistics of Eggs. 1 – 1977. 84 pp. (0 11 936305 4). £2.60 (£2.80).

Monthly Statistics of Milk. 2 – 1977. 56 pp. (0 11 936314 3). £2.60 (£2.74).

Monthly General Statistics Bulletin. 12 – 1976. 188 pp. (0 11 936319 4). £1.85 (£2.17).

Production of Vegetables and Fruit 1976. 92 pp. (0 11 936316 X). £1.85. (£2.05).

Monthly Statistics of Meat: 1 – 1977. 130 pp. (0 11 936332 1). £3.85 (£4.11). 2 – 1977. 144 pp. (0 11 936333 X). £3.85 (£4.11).

Coal. Monthly Bulletin. 1/3 – 1977. 16 pp. (0 11 936342 9). 45p (51½p).

Investments in Fixed Assets 1972-74. 1976. 132 pp. + 6 folded inserts (0 11 936354 2). £3.20 (£3.67).

Monthly External Trade Bulletin. 2 – 1977. (With Supplement: EC Trade by Commodity Classes and Main Countries: January-September 1976). 124 pp. + 30 pp. Supp. (0 11 936355 0). £2.60 (£2.89).

Quarterly Iron and Steel Statistical Bulletin. 1 – 1977. 336 pp. (0 11 936357 7). £7.15 (£7.70).

The Agricultural Policy of the European Community. 38 pp. (0 11 936362 3). 25p (34 p).

Energy Statistics Yearbook 1970-75. 1976. 294 pp. (0 11 936381 X). £7.30 (£7.90).

ECSC Products 1973. 404 pp. (0 11 936389 5). £18.20 (£18.80).

Agriculture ministers extend ban on herring fishing

EEC agriculture ministers decided to extend the present ban on fishing for herring in the North Sea for a further month, and to consider the herring situation as a whole – including waters to the west of Britain as well as the North Sea – at the next council, John Silkin told the Commons on 27 April. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was reporting on the outcome of the council of agriculture ministers on 25 and 26 April when CAP prices for 1977/78 were agreed (see *Trade and Industry* 29 April, page 158).

The council had also agreed to certain changes in the basic regulation on hops which would strengthen producer marketing. 'I believe these will be welcomed by the Hops Marketing Board and the farmers' unions,' Mr Silkin said.

Ministers agreed on a mandate for the negotiations with the ACP countries on sugar prices for 1977/78 and these would start on 28 April, he added.

Mr Silkin explained that commissioner Gundelach had notified him that he was studying how the functions of the milk marketing boards could be maintained, with particular regard to the means by which the boards helped to maintain the level of liquid milk consumption thereby reducing intervention on dairy products.

EEC – your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps business men by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Anti-dumping action from July

Q. I understand that the EEC commission will be responsible for all anti-dumping action after the end of June. What effect will this have?

A. Since Britain joined the community, action against anti-dumping and subsidisation has in certain cases been the responsibility of the commission, while in others it remained with the Department of Trade. From 1 July 1977, dumping from outside the enlarged community becomes wholly an EEC matter and injury will normally be assessed in relation to the effect on the community as a whole.

Applicants for anti-dumping action will have the option of making their initial approach either through the Department of Trade's anti-dumping unit or directly to the commission. It is expected that most UK applicants will take the former course. But, where a UK industry is involved along with other community industries in an application being co-ordinated by a European trade association, it is clearly sensible that the approach should normally be to the commission through that channel.

In all cases the advice of the UK anti-dumping unit will be available to industry and it will also assist the commission in handling anti-dumping matters. The address is: Anti-dumping Unit, General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5759.

Community law forms

Q. What form does community law take and what is the difference between regulations, directives and decisions?

A. Community law is either embodied in the treaties themselves – sometimes referred to as the primary legislation of the European communities – or is derived from the treaties, the so-called secondary legislation. Community law may have direct internal effect as law in the member states themselves. Some of the treaty provisions have direct internal effect although, generally speaking, this is more a feature of the older European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) treaty than of the later EEC treaty.

To a considerable extent the EEC treaty sets out the basic framework of community law, leaving the community institutions to make detailed provisions for its implementation; there are, nevertheless, certain important provisions of this treaty – for example in the rules of competition – which do have direct internal effect. It is by no means always a clear-cut matter which treaty provisions do have direct internal effect and only the community court of justice can rule definitively on the matter.

With secondary legislation it is often much easier to see which of the instruments have direct internal effect since this is usually apparent from the type of instrument. Under the EEC and Euratom treaties **regulations** have direct internal effect, although they may sometimes need to be supplemented by national legislation. As with all community law having direct internal effect, regulations prevail over the national laws of the member states if any conflict with national laws should arise. **Directives** do not have direct internal effect but create obligations on the governments of member states to ensure that the requirements laid down in them are strictly and fully implemented, where necessary by national legislation. **Decisions** are usually concerned with specific problems and are not necessarily directed at the community as a whole. They may be addressed to governments of individual member states, in which case they impose binding obligations but do not have direct internal effect as law in the member state. Or they may be addressed to persons or individuals in one or more member states, in which case they have direct internal effect in relation to the individuals or persons to whom they are addressed.

Under the ECSC treaty the position is substantially the same but decisions correspond to both regulations and decisions in the EEC/Euratom sense and recommendations correspond to EEC/Euratom directives.

Gibraltar and the EEC

Q. How is Gibraltar affected by the United Kingdom's membership of the EEC?

A. When the UK joined the EEC in 1973, Gibraltar was included by virtue of article 227(4) of the treaty of Rome which states that its provisions 'shall apply to the European territories for whose external relations a member state is responsible.'

However, certain exceptions were negotiated at Gibraltar's request which exclude her from the EEC customs territory, the common agricultural policy and the need to apply VAT. The chief practical effects have been to give Gibraltarians the right to free movement and establishment in the community, and also to oblige the UK to apply levies on the export of agricultural products to Gibraltar.

European court of auditors

Q. I have been told that the Brussels audit board is to be replaced by an expanded European court of auditors. Could you give me the details?

A. The new European court of auditors will be set up as soon as possible after ratification of the treaty of 22 July 1975 (cmnd 6252) by all member states. It is expected that this will now be within the next two or three months but the completion of ratification procedures is dependent on the progress of legislation within certain member states.

Under the terms of the treaty the court will be required to examine the accounts of all revenue and expenditure of the community and bodies set up by the community unless specifically precluded from so doing. It will draw up an annual report after the close of each financial year which will be sent to the community institutions and published together with the institutions' replies. It will also assist the assembly and the council in exercising their powers of control over the implementation of the budget.

The audit court will have higher status as a community institution and will differ from the existing audit board in the following main respects:

1 Its members will be full-time and completely independent; existing board members are part-time and are drawn from national audit authorities etc.
2 The court will be enabled to conduct audit concurrently with expenditure and commitments, whereas the board is unable to commence audit until the accounts have been closed.
3 There has been some doubt as to the powers of the board to conduct audit on the spot in member states, but the court will have an undeniable right to do so.
4 The court will have greater power to ask for the provision documents and information which are required for the purpose of audit.

EEC information

New guide published

The EEC Information Unit has published a new edition of *EEC – Your Questions Answered*. It contains much new material and will help all those needing to know how EEC policies and legislation can affect day-to-day business activities and forward planning.

Free copies are available from:
EEC Information Unit
Department of Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
tel. 01-215 5377 or 3579

Overseas trade news

Gearing up for trade with third world – Hart

British industry and commerce should go out with a more positive attitude to get orders in the developing countries of the world, said Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, in an address to the Junior Chamber of Commerce in London on 27 April.

She pointed out that about one quarter of Britain's export business is currently with the developing world. 'If we do no more than project the current rate of growth we could expand our business by 20 per cent over the next three years. But it needs sustained effort, competitive pricing policies and attractive and firm delivery dates.'

Mrs Hart went on to say that in the past there had been a British tendency to look upon relations with developing countries in terms of trade following aid. But 80 to 90 per cent of the economic growth in developing countries is generated by their own finance and effort. 'It is a new scene today. We shall be very foolish, and miss a very substantial boat, if we do not recognise the interdependence of rich and poor countries. The economic outlook for Britain and all the industrialised countries is now inexorably determined by events and attitudes in the less developed world. That is what the north-south dialogue is all about.'

Mrs Hart also said that while it was true that two-thirds of the world's people were desperately poor, their purchasing power was slowly increasing. There were growing opportunities for trade and business. Now was the time to establish further contacts in this great potential market. 'It is vital,' the minister said, 'that industry and commerce in Britain gears itself to producing the goods which the third-world countries need for their development. When I visit developing countries it is alarming to discover how much more in evidence are the manufactures of our industrial competitors. British industry used to have a flair for knowing what would sell, what was needed, in tropical countries. We must regain this advantage, and look again at the market, look afresh at our product design, marketing and servicing for third world demand.'

Developing countries had learned the advantages of shopping around. They would only buy British if British was best, and if it met their needs.

Orders for goods and services arising from the British aid programme – something near £180 million over the past year alone – had created a familiarity and even a demand for British manufactures in less developing countries. 'But it is essential,' Mrs Hart concluded, 'that this goodwill and understanding is followed through by attempts to increase trade in goods and services secured by British firms operating outside the official aid programme.'

Anti-dumping duty removed on Romanian fibres . . .

Anti-dumping duty on polyester man-made fibres imported from Romania is to be removed by an order which will come into effect on 16 May.

The duty is being removed on the grounds that imports of polyester fibres from Romania are no longer likely to cause material injury or threat of material injury. It was imposed, at 25p per kilogram, by the Anti-Dumping Duty (No. 2) Order 1976 on 22 July last year following a full investigation by the Department of Trade under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969.

Copies of the new order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Revocation) Order 1977 (SI 1977/695), will be available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 (price 10p) or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 16½p including postage).

. . . and an investigation into certain lanolin derivatives

An application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties on liquid absorption base lanolin derivatives imported from the United States is to be investigated by the Department of Trade. The application has been made under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969.

A summary of the applicants case will be made available to any interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information contained therein in confidence.

Any representations which interested parties may wish to make in connection with the application should be submitted in writing not later than 31 May 1977. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making representations should stipulate any points which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for a copy of the statement, together with an undertaking in the terms set out above, should be sent to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 326 Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SH.

Treasury clarifies guidelines on dividend control on overseas companies

The Treasury has clarified the position on the guidelines under which it may grant exemption from dividend control for companies whose assets and operations are almost exclusively overseas.

Companies which are officially accepted as resident abroad for taxation and exchange control purposes will be exempted. Companies which have 90 per cent or more of their assets situated overseas and where 90 per cent or more of their earnings derive from overseas operations will also normally be regarded as meeting the intentions of the announcement of 20 October 1975. However, the Treasury says, all applications are considered on their merits.

Companies which, though incorporated in the UK, have their operations overseas, are put in particular difficulties by the existence of the UK dividend controls in their relationships with overseas governments and local shareholders since the dividend control, which is primarily part of counter-inflation policy in the UK has little relevance in their circumstances. They may also be unnecessarily inhibited by the existence of the controls in raising money on international markets. Provisions to exempt them were announced on 20 October 1975.

Promotion of UK medical techniques in May and June

During May and June a total of 97 companies will promote their products and know-how in Libya, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Switzer-

land with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The British Health-Care Export Council is co-sponsoring a joint-venture group of 16 firms at the biennial Utrecht international hospital equipment exhibition (Medica '77) which closes tomorrow (7 May). New items introduced at this event included anaesthetic equipment, lightweight invalid beds, rehabilitation equipment and emergency resuscitators.

Another joint venture backed by BOTB in association with the British Health-Care Export Council brings together 24 firms at the Hanover international hospital exhibition from 7 to 10 June. The wide range of surgical equipment and other products on show will include many new and advanced machines and equipment as well as long-established lines in steady demand.

The BOTB joint-venture group of 10 firms at the trade fair for hospitals and medical equipment (Ifas), running from 14 to 18 June in Zurich, also arranged with the co-operation of the British Health-Care Export Council will show a number of developments new to all markets, including special models of operating tables, wheelchairs, autoclaves, orthopaedic equipment and resuscitation equipment.

The British Health-Care Export Council is also co-sponsor of the official British participation at the highly-specialised anaesthesiological congress and exhibition held every four years in Uppsala, which will take place from 29 June to 2 July to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the town's university. Some of the top British specialists in the field will take part in the congress. At the supporting exhibition, the joint-venture group of nine companies will present products including a cerebral function monitor, neurophysiological measuring equipment, a spirometer with digital meter, oxygen therapy equipment, electromedical items and a full range of single use and re-usable anaesthetic products.

In Zagreb, at the medicine and medical aids exhibition to be held from 16 to 21 May, there will be 14 firms in the BOTB joint venture arranged in co-operation with the British Surgical Export Group. At Optica '77 (ophthalamic exhibition and congress), to be held in Dusseldorf from 14 to 17 May, the BOTB joint venture group of 12 firms is arranged in association with the Federation of Manufacturing Opticians.

Posidonia '78 in Piraeus

'Posidonia '78', the sixth international shipping exhibition, will be held in Piraeus, Greece, from 5 to 10 June 1978. The British Overseas Trade Board has agreed to support British firms at this event through its joint-venture scheme.

Any firm interested in taking part should contact, as soon as possible, Mr D. Maxwell, British Marine Equipment Council, 111/112 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7PT, tel. 01-247 7566, or Miss S. Macnair, Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association, 21 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7JE, tel. 01-235 5131.

The cut-off date for the receipt of applications for the joint venture is 3 June.

International seminar at High Wycombe

Over 100 delegates from exporting firms in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire and other parts of the country attended an international export seminar at the Lorch Foundation, High Wycombe, on 26 April.

The host firm, Cave Wood (Transport) Ltd, of High Wycombe was congratulated by Roy Earnshaw, Export Year adviser to the British Overseas Trade Board, on its positive approach to exporting. He complimented the company on organising the conference which was also attended by agents from Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Ireland and Germany.

The value of trading in overseas currencies was explained by Mr W. R. Driver of the National Westminster Bank Overseas and Mr G. Oldoni, of Rhenus EMGP, Paris, outlined the advantages of a direct relationship with an established forwarder and ways in which this can improve contact between the supplier and client.

Documentation for international trading created a great deal of interest from the delegates, especially the smaller firms, when Mr C. Freebury of Sitpro (Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board) explained the intricacies of international trading; and the Carriages of Goods Act, explained by Mr R. F. Clark of R. F. Clark and Co Ltd, London, resulted in a useful two-way stream of information on the meaning of the act to shippers and the ways in which they could increase their insurance cover.

Geoffrey Cave-Wood, managing director of the host firm, arranged for delegates to see a demonstration by a language school, KDS of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Export year adviser to visit Yorkshire and Humberside

Yorkshire and Humberside exporters will be meeting Export Year adviser Roy Earnshaw when he spends four days in the region this month.

From 17 to 20 May, he will call on a dozen companies in the region in order to discover what lessons firms have learned and what benefits they have derived from their involvement in the campaign, which was intended to improve the awareness at all levels of the need to sell abroad and to improve internal communications to make exporting more efficient.

Sees firms

His visit begins in Hull, where he will see two major firms – Fenners, the engineering group, and Reckitt and Colman. In Beverley, Mr Earnshaw will visit Bartoline Ltd, a firm specialising in oil-based products and Rose Forgrove Ltd and Howson-Algraphy (an operating group of Vickers Ltd) will receive him in Leeds, before he moves on to Pool-in-Wharfedale – to B. S. and W. Whiteley Ltd.

The following day he will visit Woodhead Manufacturing Co Ltd, at Ossett, before travelling to Sheffield to call on cutlery makers Viners Ltd and F. Parramore and Sons (1924) Ltd. On 20 May, he will hear of the experiences of Rotary Electrical Co Ltd, Firth Brown Tools Ltd and Neepsend Ltd.

Mr Earnshaw will also meet the region's three Export Year co-ordinating committees – in Hull, Leeds and Sheffield – during his stay. He will be accompanied throughout his tour by Jack Lister, director (exports), British Overseas Trade Board, Yorkshire and Humberside region.

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ENCIRCLE TI 490 ON PAGE 251 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Aims to double carpet exports

During Export Year, Thomson Shepherd Carpets of Dundee is aiming to double overseas sales to a figure of over £500,000, the 300 employees were told recently. The company's major markets include north America, West Germany, Australia and Japan. The firm took part in a furnishing exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo and as a result hopes to bring sales to Japan to over £40,000 during Export Year.

Firm extends Export Year indefinitely

Shop-floor workers at one of Europe's largest tool manufacturing groups have asked for the company's Export Year campaign to be extended indefinitely. The group, James Neill Holdings, has manufacturing plants in Sheffield, Cannock, Warrington, Wolverhampton and Mitcham.

Before management had considered what should happen when the Export Year campaign was due to finish at the end of June, the shop-floor said it wanted the scheme to carry on. Management was very happy to agree, said Geoffrey Ward, a director of the holding company.

Mr Ward added that in the eight months it had been going, there had been a tremendous increase in export sales. The company believed it was generating goodwill and promoting a better atmosphere between shop-floor and management, so the company was only too pleased to continue it.

Overseas sales in the eight month period were 31.4 per cent higher than during the equivalent period 12 months earlier.

'The whole atmosphere that has been created by Export Year communications with the shop floor has helped to improve relationships generally', Mr Ward explained. 'There has been a universal acceptance of the fact that providing customer service – in terms of delivery and quality – is vitally important to our export growth and to the prosperity of everyone concerned.'

Saudi engineers train at Baker Perkins

Saudi Arabian engineers receiving instructions at Baker Perkins' Peterborough factory in the manufacturing processes of automatic biscuit-making plant. The engineers spent several weeks on a comprehensive course of instruction before the plant, valued at £500,000, is installed in the biscuit-making complex at Jeddah.

Loan for diesels backed by ECGD . . .

A loan of £11 million which Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd has made available to Diesel Nacional SA, Mexico is being backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will help finance a £13 million contract for diesel engines and engine kits which Cummins Engine Co Ltd will supply during 1977 from their Darlington factory.

This is the second ECGD buyer credit to finance diesel engines supplied by Cummins to this buyer – the first covered 1976 supplies.

. . . and loan for Bahrain hotel

A £7.6 million loan to the Crown Prince of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad bin Issa bin Salman al Khalifa, and his brothers Sheikhs Rashad, Mohamed, Abdullah and Ali, to help finance the UK portion of a £20 million contract awarded to Taylor Woodrow International has been guaranteed by ECGD.

The contract is for the construction of a 350-bedroom luxury hotel which will include a large ballroom and other facilities and an adjacent shopping centre incorporating a cinema and a six-lane bowling alley.

Tayside mission boosts Iran orders

Reports from the recent Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry trade mission to Iran show that a total of £638,000 worth of orders were acquired during the visit. The chamber puts the inquiries and future business at a further £5.6 million.

The mission members feel that despite quite a degree of competition there are considerable opportunities in Iran for UK exporters. Iran is one of the most important markets for many products in the world today.

This was the Dundee and Tayside chamber's first official visit to Iran although regular trade missions have gone to the Middle East and Gulf area over the past seven years.

Included in the products and services being promoted by the mission members were: petrol-pump computing heads and other counting devices, marine and oceanographic surveys and consultancy, power-generating equipment, lighting equipment, materials for metal finishing, electrical equipment and automotive components.

Leicester visit to Ghana and Nigeria

A Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce and Industry mission to Ghana and Nigeria returns today (6 May). The mission spent five days in Ghana before travelling on to Nigeria.

The nine-man mission, accompanied by the chamber's deputy secretary Alan Green, was made up of manufacturers of both capital and consumer goods.

The chamber has visited oil-rich Nigeria three times before and has been to Ghana once. The Nigerian market is a particularly good one for Leicester manufacturers. The chamber mission which visited Lagos in September 1975, returned with orders worth £1.3 million and the last mission to go there – in April 1976 – brought back orders worth £750,000 and additional business done since the return of both these missions has also been very considerable.

Ten-day South Korean textile mission

Sixteen senior representatives from leading textile manufacturing companies in South Korea were members of a recent textile mission to the UK, sponsored jointly by the British Textile Machinery Association and the British Overseas Trade Board.

During their 10-day stay in the UK members of the mission visited 32 textile machinery manufacturers in Accrington, Belfast, Blackburn, Coventry, Halifax, Helmshore, Heywood, Keighley, Leeds, Leicester, Macclesfield, Manchester, Middleton, Oldham, Rochdale, Skipton and Stockport.

Bangladesh grant to buy UK capital equipment

Britain is providing Bangladesh with a £7.14 million grant in connection with the Adarsha and Mahini textile mills project. The grant will be used to establish two new cotton-spinning plants with the intention of ensuring a cheaper and more reliable supply of cotton yarn for local village hand-loom weaving.

The project, which is financed by the Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), is part of the 1975 UK-Bangladesh project

grant agreement. Most of the grant will be used for the purchase of capital equipment manufactured in Britain. The project will be administered locally by the Bangladesh Textile Industries Corporation.

Aid for Sri Lanka's forestry

Britain is to make a grant of £280,000 to assist Sri Lanka's forestry development. The aid will be used to purchase equipment from Britain to support the thinning of teak plantations and reafforestation programmes on the island. The equipment includes chain saws, Land-Rovers, tractors, trailers and lorries.

In the last few years teak has been used increasingly by local carpenters in the island's furniture industry and the smaller teak trees, which are felled as a result of thinning programmes, are being used successfully in the export-oriented parquet floor manufacturing industry. The British equipment will speed up the thinning programmes, meaning more felled teak for local and export purposes. It will also sustain Sri Lanka's reafforestation plans currently running at about 7,000ha a year.

Worldwide electrical plug survey

A survey of the most common types of plugs and sockets used throughout the world has been published by Technical Help to Exporters (THE), a service of the British Standards Institution. Entitled 'Electrical plugs – an international survey', it is a revised edition of a survey that was first published in 1973.

Since its initial publication, THE has accumulated information on 41 other countries, and this has been incorporated in the new edition, together with information on new developments such as the proposed international plug and socket system which may become the preferred system in 42 countries.

The survey costs £10 to THE members and £13 to non-members. Further information can be obtained from the Electrical Section, Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ, tel. 0442 3111.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Indonesia, the Republic of Ireland, Jamaica, Belize and the Cayman Islands, the Netherlands, and the United States have been published in the *Hints to business men* No 4 series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any regional office of the Department of Industry.

Simulation in international operations

A three-day residential workshop on simulation in international operations will be held at the Administrative Staff College, Henley, from 16 to 19 May.

The objective of the workshop is to develop the ability of participants to manage the design or selection and subsequent use of simulation in their own enterprises and it is intended for educators, analysts and managers who are engaged in international operations or who have a particular interest in simulation.

Further details can be obtained from the Registrar, The Administrative Staff College, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3AU, tel. Hambleden (Bucks) 454.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1613: Imports from Singapore of certain knitted or crocheted under garments

As already announced, the EEC has negotiated with Singapore a restriction on imports into the UK of knitted or crocheted undervests with sleeves, shirts and T-shirts, of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres, originating in Singapore.

Pending enactment of community legislation, the provisions of the arrangement are being operated de facto as set out below. The goods affected and the quota established for the period 1 January to 31 December 1977 are as follows:

Tariff heading/description of goods	Quota
ex 60.04 Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, the following: undervests with sleeves, shirts and T-shirts, of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres.	1,125,000 pieces

Imports of these garments from Singapore were already subject to UK surveillance licensing. Current surveillance licences issued under those arrangements in respect of these newly restricted goods were revoked with effect from 29 April 1977.

Licensing arrangements

The Singapore authorities will administer the quota by issuing to their exporters export certificates endorsed to the effect that consignments have been debited against the agreed ceiling for exports to the EEC. These certificates should be submitted by UK importers, in support of a completed form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above, who will issue import licences up to the appropriate quota limit.

Goods in transit

The Singapore authorities will issue duly-endorsed export certificates in respect of these newly restricted goods for consignments exported from Singapore on or after 10 April 1977. Goods in transit to the UK on or before 9 April 1977 will count against the quota if exported from Singapore after 31 December 1976, and will be licensed without the requirement for an export certificate to be produced, provided that satisfactory documentary evidence of the date of shipment of such goods is supplied to Import Licensing Branch in support of a completed form ILB/A.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 367.

1614: Imports of woven polyolefin sacks and bags from the Republic of Korea

Notice to importers 1558, published in *Trade and Industry* of 11 June 1976, set out the arrangements for importing sacks and bags made from polyethylene strip or polypropylene strip and originating in the Republic of Korea, for the 12-month period 26 May 1976 to 25 May 1977.

Following consultations between the European community and the Republic of Korea it has been agreed that the established quota should be maintained in effect at a revised level until 31 December 1977 Regulation (EEC) 551/77). The quota for the period 26 May 1976 to 31 December 1977 will therefore be as follows:

Tariff heading/ description of goods	Quota
ex 62.03 Sacks and bags made from polyethylene strip or polypropylene strip	4,000,000 pieces

Licensing arrangements

Whereas the original quota of 1,970,000 pieces for the period 26 May 1976 to 25 May 1977 was administered by Import Licensing Branch, the Korean authorities will administer the balance by issuing export licences which should be submitted together with a completed form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch at the address shown above who will issue import licences up to the quota limit.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 311.

Poland plans to change the balance

During the past seven years Poland's trade balance has moved into deficit and western countries have been the main beneficiaries. Although the aim of Poland's latest five-year plan is to restore a balance of payments surplus by 1980, the current climate for trade between Poland and the UK is highly favourable, as this article explains.

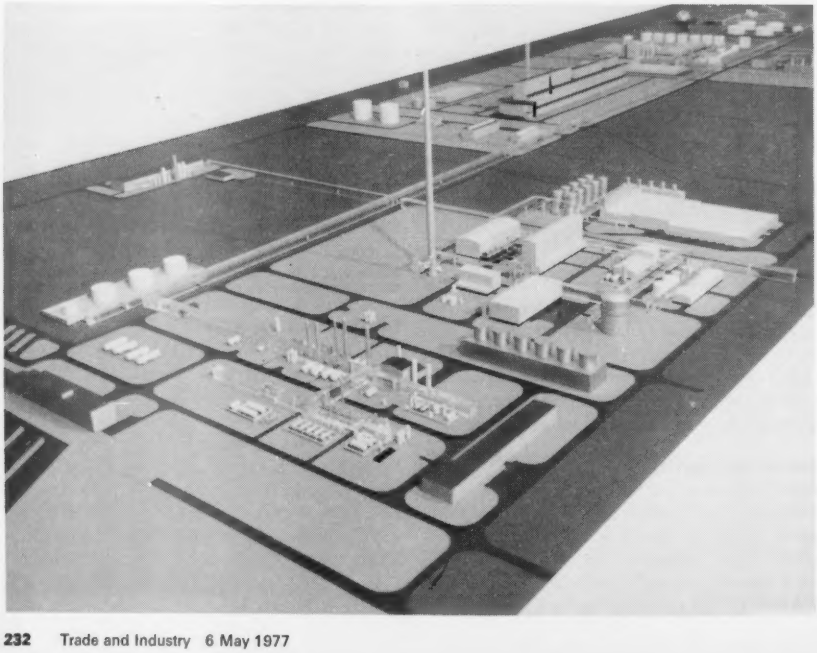
After a period of relatively slow economic growth during the quarter century after the second world war, the Polish economy expanded rapidly in the first half of this decade. Between 1971 and 1975, national income grew by 10 per cent per annum, industrial production by 11 per cent and investments by 18 per cent.

This was achieved by a deliberate expansionist policy involving substantial use of credits from abroad – mainly the west – to pay for imports of machinery, equipment and technology (including complete plants). It was intended that these credits were to be repaid by future exports of manufactured goods and raw materials. But agricultural production did not increase commensurately and, from being a net exporter of agricultural produce up to 1970, Poland is now a net importer, in particular of grain from the west.

As a result, trade with the west has increased sharply from 20 per cent of the total in 1970 to 40 per cent in 1975, amounting to around half of Polish imports, although trade with the other CMEA countries still accounts for just over half of Polish foreign trade.

Owing to recession in the west, Polish exports have grown more slowly than expected, with the result that Poland is in deficit with most of her western trading partners. And so, at the beginning of 1976, the Polish government took firm measures to try to bring investments under much stricter control and to reduce imports. The measures taken included a re-organisation of the foreign trade enterprises, which have responsibility for commercial matters in Poland, and most of them were brought under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Trade; a system of import tariffs levied in zlotys on a number of foreign trade enterprises; and the division of industry into nine broad sectors, each sector being given the task of maintaining in balance its hard currency accounts with western countries.

A model of the 200,000 tpa PVC complex being built at Wloclawek in Poland by Petrocarbon Developments Ltd of Manchester. The contract, which is worth £170 million, is due for completion in 1978.



Different priorities

The new five-year plan for 1976-80, which was approved by the Polish parliament in December, aims to maintain a capital growth rate, although at a less spectacular level than during the 1971-75 period and the priorities will be different. Investment, which accounted for almost a third of national income by 1975, will grow only very slowly in absolute terms and will decline to a quarter of national income. Real wages will grow less rapidly, but more goods will be made available to the Polish consumer. The growth of imports will be contained and exports encouraged with the aim of achieving a trade surplus by 1980.

These priorities will in general determine the main industrial sectors where further investment will be authorised: the agriculture and food industry; consumer goods; and export industries, including the shipbuilding and the chemical industries. Mining, and the further development of Polish resources of raw materials – coal, copper and sulphur – will also receive high priority. An overall rise of 50 per cent in industrial production is envisaged by 1980.

Agriculture and food

In the agricultural and food sectors, the main task is described as the development of the 'food economy', especially in the fields of animal and green-crop production, to meet the ever-growing domestic demand for foodstuffs, in particular meat, and to reduce imports of grain and fodder by half in 1980. The 'food complex' (agriculture, machinery, fertilisers, food processing) is to receive about 22 per cent of all investments during the period. Particular objectives include increased supplies of fertiliser, the introduction of new and varied seeds, and, above all, mechanisation, both for the state and private farms. It is estimated that by 1980 agricultural production in general will have risen by 16 to 18 per cent, including a 20 to 23 per cent increase in plant production and a 13 to 16 per cent increase in animal production, mainly cattle and pigs.

In the mechanisation field, the Ministry of Agriculture and the various industrial organisations concerned are conducting experiments with different types of agricultural machinery, with a view to possible manufacture-under-licence agreements with the successful candidates. With the coming on stream of the Ursus plant, built under Massey Ferguson/Perkins licence, deliveries of tractors should increase by 99 per cent by 1980. In the food sector, emphasis is placed on all types of food-processing plants, improved packaging, better deliveries and storage facilities.

Consumer goods

The consumer goods sector will receive about 30 per cent of all investments in 1977, as against 25 per cent in 1976. Consumer durables are planned to account for 57 per cent of the overall increase in industrial production. Some of the specific items where production is to increase are cars, tv sets and colour tv tubes and natural and artificial fibres.

The new British pavilion under construction at the Poznan fairground in Poland. The pavilion will house a large group of UK exhibitors at the international fair next month.

Industrial sector

In the industrial sector, one of the main features will be a change of emphasis from quantity to quality. Essentially this means improved production methods, modernisation of factories where necessary, and above all better use of materials, especially imported ones. At the same time other projects, directly related to exports, will be started and the steel, power, electro-engineering, and chemical, industries and the automotive industry will receive special priority.

Some examples of the projects already authorised are further investments in the Huta Katowice steelworks, where production is to increase to 4.5 million tons by 1980, with a further 4.5 million ton increase by 1985; the development of a new rich coal-field near Lublin, and of lignite in Belchatow; the construction of a DM2.6 billion coal gasification plant and linked chemical complex; the construction of stage 2 of the Gdansk oil refinery; the expansion of production in the aircraft industry; a continued modernisation of the ports of Gdynia, Gdansk and Szczecin; continued development of non-ferrous metal extraction, especially copper; hotel building and tourist development generally.

Apart from these specific projects, it is almost certain that in other fields, especially where foreign firms have specialised technology, and where they are prepared to consider 'co-operation' – manufacture under licence, counterpurchase, and buy-back, for example – opportunities will continue to arise for ships and ships' equipment, the building industry, mining equipment and the electronics industry, among others.

Increasing exports

These plans will not be realised unless Poland can earn enough abroad to service and repay the credits already extended by western countries and new commitments. The plan therefore envisages an increase in exports of 75 per cent, with imports only rising by 26 per cent.

As Poland's present deficit is with western countries this will mean in practice pegging imports from the west at about the present level. These should average about $6.3 billion per annum over the rest of the plan period – slightly less than the level of 1976. Evidence of this trend appeared during 1976, when the rate of increase of imports from the west rose more slowly than those from CMEA countries – 8.8 per cent compared with 13.9 per cent.

UK's position

Before 1970, the UK was Poland's main western trading partner. Now this country is in fourth position behind West Germany, France and the United States. In spite of this, UK trade with Poland increased from £122.7 million in 1970 to £343 million in 1976, with UK exports running at £189 million. The main trend during this period was a widening gap between Polish exports and imports; by 1975, the balance of trade in UK's favour was £68 million. But last year, Polish exports to the UK increased by 34 per cent and UK exports by only 4 per cent, halving the gap to £35 million.

A highly favourable climate for UK-Polish trade was created by the visit to London of the Polish Prime Minister, Piotr Jaroszewicz, in December last year. The joint communique issued at the end of the visit expressed the hope that the volume of trade would again double by 1980; that co-operation, especially in the chemical and engineering industries, would continue at the high level achieved in the previous five-year periods' and that co-operation in new sectors, such as metallurgy, farm machinery, foodstuffs, aircraft construction, and mining equipment, would develop. The visit was marked by the signature of a new five-year co-operation agreement between the two countries and a number of important commercial agreements was signed between UK and Polish companies.

Despite a probable reduction in the range and magnitude of opportunities for UK firms in Poland during the next few years, the climate for increasing trade between the UK and Poland remains excellent. Opportunities will continue to occur, and those companies which are willing to explore the market to identify them can receive considerable reward. Companies already established in Poland have an advantage because they are already known to their Polish counterparts, but this does not exclude newcomers. They should however be aware of the particular trading methods of the Polish market and here the Commercial Relations and Exports Division of the Department of Trade (CRE 4) and the commercial department of the British embassy in Warsaw, which is always happy to welcome visitors, may be able to offer assistance.

Further information

Further information about the Polish market and the sectors in which specific opportunities are likely to arise can be obtained from CRE 4, tel. 01-215 3463/5257.

Major Polish construction contract secured

Cementation International Ltd has signed a £24.6 million contract with the Polish foreign trade enterprise, Intraco, for the construction of two luxury hotels at Gdynia for the Polish Balkan Shipping Company.

The contract follows an agreement signed last December when the Polish premier, Piotr Jaroszewicz, visited the UK.

It is the first in the field of construction ever secured by a British company in Poland and involves the overall design and commissioning of the hotels.

Overseas trade exhibitions

UK exhibits clean up in Chicago

From J. G. Quinn, British consulate-general, Chicago

Seven British companies, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Society of Laundry Engineers and Allied Trades, exhibited at Clean '77, the World Educational Congress for Laundering and Dry Cleaning held at McCormick Place, Chicago, from 18 to 21 April.

With the current upsurge of confidence in the laundry and dry-cleaning industry, the United States market seems set for a period of growth following years of relative decline. British technology at this first-time joint venture caused much interest and the British exhibitors were delighted with the show.

On display was the Supa-Wash unit of Universal Towel Co Ltd. Regular demonstrations of this large machine were very popular and Universal Towel representatives reported firm orders of £600,000 with as much again in negotiation. The company's associate, Unilease Ltd, was also represented on the stand as was the United States subsidiary, Universal Towel Inc of Irving, Texas.

Colmart Marketing Ltd, demonstrating its San-Breeze air-freshening system and other products received many firm inquiries, particularly for its multi-lane winder, while Thomas Broadbent and Sons' automatic moisture extractor exhibit met with considerable response and the company is considering various offers for licensing arrangements.

Samuel Pegg and Son which showed its range of spin washers and dry-cleaning machine, reported much interest. The company is considering many applications for distributorship of the products in the United States. Neil and Spenser Ltd, which together with its United States subsidiary, Pinnacle Products Corporation of Blauvelt, New York, displayed three of its range of dry-cleaning machines, reported that the show was a big success, and Polymark/Futurail, exhibiting its monorail transport system, reported many firm inquiries.

IPC Consumer Industries Press Ltd, attending the show to publicise its two specialist magazines – *Power Laundry* and *Laundry & Cleaning* – reported many firm inquiries for subscriptions. The company arranged for a party of over 30 British laundry and dry cleaning experts to attend the event.

In short, the UK joint venture was a considerable success and all the participants plan to attend the next show – Clean '79 – at Las Vegas.

Meacher visits Hanover Fair

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade (second from right), and Mr A. K. Mason (extreme right), consul-general in Hanover, visiting the Hawker Siddeley Electric stand at this year's Hanover Fair which ended on 28 April. Mr A. M. McGhie (third from right), a director of Hawker Siddeley Export, escorted Mr Meacher and Mr Mason around the exhibits.

Paris components show maintains its reputation

From Robert Hyde, British embassy, Paris

A record number of 1,260 companies exhibited at the twentieth Paris Salon International des Composants Electroniques which was held from 31 March to 6 April at the Porte de Versailles exhibition park. There were 29 foreign countries represented by 726 exhibitors, including 252 from the United States, 144 from the Federal Republic of Germany and 85 from the United Kingdom.

A joint venture sponsored by the Electronic Components Industry Federation grouped 29 UK firms. The joint-venture group included such prominent names as Marconi, EMI, Thorn and Westinghouse, while Mullard, Formica and the Pye Group (represented by Newmarket Transistors, BEPI Electronics and Pye Connectors) exhibited independently.

The exhibition this year was spread over three separate halls because of modernisation work on the hall where it is usually housed. Although this resulted in a less concentrated exhibition than usual and not all its constituent parts enjoyed the same level of visitor traffic, its reputation as one of the leading shows in Europe in its field was well maintained. Britain's contribution was impressive both in size and range. The attendance of nearly 76,000 represented a 5 per cent increase over 1976.

Exhibitions and fairs in Nigeria

Before becoming involved in supplying goods or equipment for display purposes at trade fairs and exhibitions in Nigeria, firms are recommended to contact Commercial Relations and Exports Division 2, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3064/3338).

The department may be able to provide additional information about the event which could possibly be of value.

EXPORT YEAR

Over 2,300 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

Overseas trade export successes

Dowty wins US mining equipment contract . . .

Through its US subsidiary, Dowty Corporation, the Dowty Group's mining division has won more export orders, worth £2.3 million, from the United States.

Among the equipment ordered by Jones and Laughlin Steel Co, Pennsylvania, are Dowty mining division's new four-leg shield supports. This is the first United States order for Dowty's hydraulically-powered four-leg shield, which has already been sold to Belgium, Australia, Argentine, Mexico and Yugoslavia.

Dowty is prime contractor in orders from Carbon Industries and North American Coal Co, West Virginia, for four-leg 500-ton roof support chocks, shield supports, plus Dowty Meco armoured face conveyors and Anderson Strathclyde coal-cutting machines.

Further information: circle 329

. . . and landing gear order for US VTOL aircraft

Dowty Exports (Dowty Rotol Division) has received an initial £135,000 order from McDonnell Douglas Corporation to design and supply the landing-gear outrigger units for the YAV-8B aircraft to be used in the flight development phase of a new VTOL project.

Dowty design personnel are working at the McDonnell Douglas factory at St Louis and the design will be completed in the UK.

The YAV-8B is an advanced version of the Hawker Siddeley AV-8A Harrier VTOL strike aircraft in service with the United States Marine Corps. It incorporates a supercritical wing on which the outrigger has been moved inboard from its earlier wing-tip position. The outrigger embodies a break-away feature to minimise structural damage to the wing in the event of a heavy landing.

Further information: circle 330

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no 01-215 5051.)

China orders British precision gauging equipment

Coventry Gauge Ltd, a TI company of Telford, has won orders from China worth more than £400,000 for advanced electronic and other precision gauging equipment following a recent visit to the UK by a delegation from the China National Technical Import Corporation.

The gauging equipment will be used on a number of projects including multi-point measurement of compressor blades for aero-engines being manufactured in China. The equipment includes the company's latest electronic neon column gauges which give clear, high-accuracy measurement indication.

Further information: circle 331

Export orders for TAC

Export orders valued at £913,000 have been awarded recently to the building and insulation division of TAC.

The biggest order, totalling £631,000, is for over 5,000 tonnes of TAC Bigsix corrugated sheets, TAC flat sheets and rainwater goods for use in construction work throughout Nigeria.

TAC Bigsix corrugated sheets will also form claddings to six transit sheds in Ras Al-Khaima. The £92,000 order calls for deliveries to be completed by mid-1977. Another prominent user of Bigsix corrugated sheets is Tanzania and 860 tonnes of the product will be delivered under the terms of a £90,000 order.

Turnabestos insulation board is the product required under a £100,000 order received from Cyprus.

Further information: circle 332

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

NCB filter medium to USSR

A National Coal Board subsidiary, Filtracite Ltd, has just won a £40,000 contract to export anthracite filter medium to the USSR, for use as the top layer of sand filters at the drinking water plant of Svetogorsk.

Filtracite Ltd exports anthracite for this purpose from Abernant Colliery, near Pontardawe, South Wales, to more than 30 countries, mainly Australia, Germany and Scandinavia, but this is the first export to eastern Europe. The anthracite was recommended by the Finnish designers of the Svetogorsk plant.

Further information: circle 333

Fire protection for Paris arts centre

Glasgow-based Cape Boards and Panels has played an important part in the construction of the largest and most modern cultural centre in the world, the recently completed George Pompidou National Centre of Art and Culture in Paris.

Cape Boards, together with other companies in the group, provided fire protection to complex 47m-long steel truss frames spanning the full width of the building and to secondary steelwork supporting the floors in a £1.4 million contract.

Further information: circle 334

US orders UK rail equipment

A £500,000 export order for over 1 million rail anchors has been awarded to Portec (UK) Ltd.

This order for rail track components, which comes through the US parent company, Portec Inc, is for Conrail – the reconstructed railroad system serving the north-east sector of the United States.

Further information: circle 335

Newman motors for irrigation project

Newman Electric Motors of Bristol has won a contract worth about £142,000 for motors for a major irrigation project in Iran.

The largest part of the contract is for 127 special vertical hollow-shaft motors for driving deep well turbine pumps.

Further information: circle 336

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Payment terms for capital goods. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 22 April concerned the new Central Bank circular RC 688; the information in the notice was taken from an unofficial source. A copy of the official Central Bank circular has now been received and there are amendments to be made to the details previously reported.

The amendments are:

1 Circular RC 688 amends circular RC 641 but does not revoke it.
2 The first payment for all imports of capital goods valued at over US $50,000 will be six months from date of shipment.

A copy in Spanish of RC 688 is available on request from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Reference on foundation garments. A notice in *Trade and Industry* on 22 April 1977 reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question of whether assistance should be accorded the production of brassieres in Australia (tariff items 61.09 and 98.13 of schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff Act 1966); this reference has now been broadened to incorporate all foundation garments falling under these tariff items.

The commission has announced that the public hearing into this reference will be held on Tuesday, 31 May 1977, commencing 10.00 am at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

UK firms and trade associations who wish to present evidence at the public hearing and who have not yet done so are required to send a copy of their statement of evidence to reach The Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, 606 St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004, by not later than 23 May 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 671/77

Reference on carpets. On 26 April notification was received that a reference had been sent to the Temporary Assistance Authority on carpets and carpeting (tariff items 58.01 or 58.02 – other than goods of terry fabric falling within 58.02.1).

The authority is required to complete its inquiry and report to government within 30 days of the date of the reference. Interested parties may submit evidence at the public hearing which is to be held on Tuesday, 10 May.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref: CRE 1508/74

Reference on tyre-cord fabric. On 26 April notification was received that a reference had been sent to the Temporary Assistance Authority on tyre-cord fabric (tariff items 51.04.2; 55.09.2; 59.11.2 and 70.20.1).

The authority is required to complete its inquiry and report to the government within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Interested parties may submit evidence at the public hearing which is to be held on Friday, 13 May.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 681/77

Reference on animal oils and fats, etc. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 8 April, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question as to whether assistance should be accorded the production in Australia of:

1 Goods falling within item 02.05, 15.01 to 15.06 (inclusive) ,15.09, 15.13, 15.14 or 15.17
2 Animal oils and fats falling within sub-item 15.08.9 or item 15.12.

The Industries Assistance Commission has now announced that public hearings into the reference will be held as follows:

Melbourne: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, commencing 10.00 am, Monday, 20 June 1977
Perth: Bankruptcy Court, 8th Floor, Lombard House, 251 Adelaide Terrace, commencing 10.00 am, Thursday, 23 June 1977
Brisbane: Conference Room, Lower Ground Floor, Australian Government Centre, 295 Ann Street, commencing 10.00 am, Monday, 27 June 1977
Sydney: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, commencing 10.00 am, Wednesday, 29 June 1977

The commission has prepared an information paper and questionnaire which will be sent to intending witnesses on request from the following address: Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600.

General statements of evidence should reach the commission by 27 May 1977.

The above inquiry will be held concurrently with the inquiry into vegetable oils and fats which was notified in *Trade and Industry*, 8 April.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 546/77 CRE 1531/76

Reference on sporting and recreational equipment. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 8 October 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question of whether assistance should be given to the production in Australia of cricket pads, shin-guards, golf buggies, sports requisites and other goods of a kind falling within items 64.06; 87.14.12; 87.14.22; 97.04; 97.06 and 97.07 of the customs tariff. The commission has now announced that public hearings into the reference will be held at the following places and times:

Sydney: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, commencing 10.00 am, Monday, 2 May 1977
Melbourne: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, commencing 10.00 am, Monday, 9 May 1977
Canberra: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, commencing 10.00 am, Wednesday, 15 June 1977

Persons who intend to submit evidence at any of the hearings should notify the commission immediately if they have not already done so.

Correspondence should be addressed to The Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 1738/76

Reference on ceramic tableware, etc. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 30 July 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question of whether assistance should be accorded to the production in Australia of ceramic tableware and other goods of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, being goods of porcelain, china or other kinds of pottery falling within item 69.11 or 69.12 of the customs tariff.

The commission has now released a draft of its report to give interested parties an opportunity to examine and comment on it before final recommendations are made. In order to consider submissions on the draft, the commission will hold a further public hearing at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra ACT on Monday, 30 May, beginning at 10.00 am. To enable the commission to examine submissions and discuss them with witnesses at the hearing it is requested that copies of intended submissions should be sent to the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, to reach him by 13 May 1977.

A copy of the draft report is available from the Department of Trade, Room 336, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 513/75

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Austria

Duty-free quotas for paper and paperboard exhausted. The Federal Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has announced that the duty-free quotas established for 1977 in accordance with protocol 1 of the Austria/EEC Agreement for goods classified under headings 48.01 and 48.07 originating in the UK have been exhausted.

Imports originating in the UK will therefore be dutiable as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	Duty
48.01 A	Machine made paper (including cellulose wadding), in rolls or sheets	
A	Machine made paper (except articles falling within sub-heading C below): Printing paper and writing paper not containing mechanical wood pulp ex 48.01 A8	7%
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface coloured, surface decorated or printed (other than that of 48.06 or Chapter 49) in rolls or sheets	
A	Coated paper and paper board and chromo paper and paper board	9%

These duties will apply until 1 January 1978 when new duty-free quotas will be opened or until the higher duties provided for in article 6 of protocol 1 are invoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Belgium

Value added tax amendments. A royal decree of 25 March 1977, published in *Moniteur Belge* of 26 March 1977, amends royal decree 20 of 20 July 1970 fixing rates of value added tax.

Among other things, rates of VAT have been increased on the following:

Works of art and antiques (from 6 per cent to 18 per cent), petrol (from 6 per cent to 14 per cent), alcoholic beverages, except beer, (from 14 per cent to 25 per cent), caviar (from 6 per cent to 25 per cent), leather goods (from 18 per cent to 25 per cent), photographs and slides, motor cycles and tyres (from 18 per cent to 25 per cent).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

France

Use of sorbic acid in confectionery. An arrêté of the Ministry of Agriculture was published in the *Official Journal* of 6 April 1977 authorising the use of sorbic acid and its calcium, sodium and potassium salts to a maximum of 1g per kg of product in certain specified sweet confectionery provided the pH is less than five.

It also stipulates that the presence and amount of sorbic acid or its salts should be specified on the labels of preparations intended for use in the manufacture of food and that the labels of prepacked products intended for retail sale should indicate the presence of sorbic acid or its salts.

Copies of the French text of this arrêté are available and a translation is being prepared.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Cosmetics. The French authorities published in the *Official Journal* of 15 April a decree giving a new list of poisonous substances which may be used in the manufacture of cosmetics and toilet preparations.

This decree, which replaces that of 9 September 1975, will come into effect at the latest six months after its publication.

Copies of the French text are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Greece

Price controls. According to the Greek press, prices in Greece of car parts and agricultural machinery will be frozen until 5 September 1977; prices of mineral oils, sanitary ware (kitchen sinks, wash basins, bidets, lavatory bowls, bath tubs, wall and floor tiles), fabrics (except cashmere), pasta, baby foods (with the exception of price differences due to fluctuations in the exchange rate) and electric bulbs will be frozen until 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Italy

Changes in excise tax and VAT. The Italian *Official Gazette* of 8 April 1977 published law 102 of 7 April 1977, which brings into force with immediate effect decree law 15 of 7 February 1977 (see *Trade and Industry*, 4 March, page 581) with certain changes as follows:

Manufacturing tax changes. Semi-fluid, fluid and extra-fluid oils are increased respectively from 135 lire to 510 lire, 350 lire to 600 lire and from 440 lire to 1700 lire per hundred kilograms.

Methane gas used as fuel other than for industry is subject to consumption tax at 30 lire/m^3.

VAT changes. Imports of benzene, liquid petroleum and methane for transport are fixed at 12 per cent.

Motor cycles for private use with engines of a cylinder capacity of more than 350cc are fixed at 35 per cent.

Copies of the law in Italian are available and an English translation is being prepared.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Japan

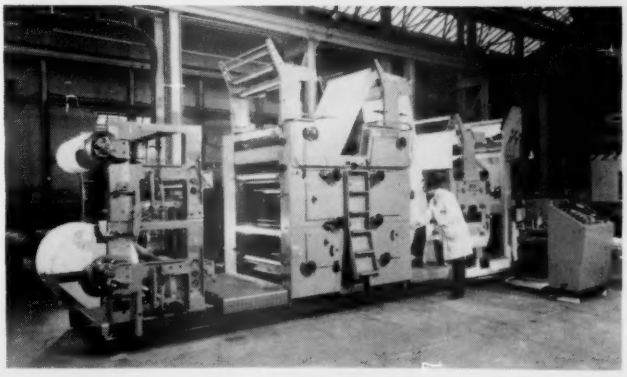
New tariff schedule. An English translation of 1977 Japanese tariff schedule is now available. Among the changes effective from 1 April are the following:

CCCN (formerly BTN)	Description	New rate of duty
18.04	Cocoa butter (fat or oil)	2.5%
23.07-2-(2)-(i).1	Preparations intended for feeding calves suitable for white veal	Free
27.09	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	Y750 per kilolitre
39.03-2-(4)	Ham casings in tubular form, of a flattened width less than 90mm	5%
39.07-2-(2)[i]	Ham casings in a processed and tubular form, of a flattened width less than 90mm	5%
43.01-2	Raw fur skins of rabbits or of hares	5%
91.07	Watch movements, assembled	6%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Colour-printing system to be promoted in Brazil

A compact and low-cost web offset colour printing system will be one of the British products promoted during a trade mission to Brazil organised by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry in May. Manufactured by Linotype and Machinery Ltd, of Altrincham, north-west England, it is claimed it can produce colour work for newspapers, magazines and books to a quality previously equalled only by expensive custom-built machinery.



Malta

Further information on metrication. Following the notice in *Trade and Industry*, 1 April 1977, page 852, information has been received that the importation of weighing machines calibrated in imperial units only will not be permitted although dual markings will be acceptable. No further details are available at this stage.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

New Zealand

Import licensing schedule 1977-78. The New Zealand import licensing arrangements for the 12-month period starting on 1 July 1977 have been announced.

Basic import licence allocation will be 100 per cent of 1976-77 licences by value. There are no new exemptions from import licensing, and non-qualifying licences will not be repeated. But items such as cornflour, gloves, woven polyester and warp-knitted fabrics, certain herbicide preparations, cermetos (metal ceramic compounds), crash helmets, contactors and relays have been changed from basic to 'C' category and will have allocations less than the import licences granted in 1976-77.

There is a number of other item codes that for special reasons were made 'C' items in 1976-77 but will now revert to basic allocations. These item codes cover pineapples, tyres and tubes, bath mats and terry towelling, hand-blown glassware, gas meters and antiques.

Import licences for adult footwear will be 90 per cent of 1976-77 licences on a pairage basis. Toys and kitset models have been removed from 'C' category and will be subject to basic allocation. Electric motors not exceeding 7kW will be retained in the 'C' category.

For ceramic tableware, wines, some spirits and sports racquets the relevant cif and fob prices have been increased to protect domestic manufacturers.

With the increase in bicycle production in New Zealand there will be one item code for the types outside the New Zealand manufacturing range. The right to transfer entitlement to item codes covering local production will be discontinued.

There is no change in the import policy for motor cars. This means that the replacement licensing scheme for New Zealand – assembled cars will continue in operation and the allocation for imports of completely built-up vehicles will be 100 per cent of 1976-77. In addition franchise holders for completely-built-up vehicles who have no assembly facilities will have their licence values increased slightly to make them more realistic.

British exporters with inquiries should give a detailed description of the goods and quote the CCCN (formerly BTN) number.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Vehicle diagnostic equipment from Britain

Electronic brake analysing equipment from a British company makes the testing of vehicle's braking power a simple, quick and efficient one-man operation. It is one of the many products that the company will introduce into Japan from 8 to 19 May when Douglas Cranney, TI Transport Equipment's export executive, visits Tokyo as a member of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders trade mission.

Nigeria

Import licences – road vehicles. A press release dated 31 March from the Nigerian authorities has announced that only franchise holders, that is, distributors recommended by the manufacturers and approved by the Federal Government will henceforth be entitled to the issue of import licences for the importation of cars and other vehicles.

It will no longer be necessary, therefore, to issue import licences to individual motor dealers for direct importation of cars into the country.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

Papua New Guinea

Direct shipping service. Exporters should be aware that Bank Line Ltd operates a regular direct shipping service to Papua New Guinea about once every month. Sailings are from Hull to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and other main ports in Papua New Guinea. The brokers for this line are Eastern Liner Services, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3, tel. 01-247 5498.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321.

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 1 April 1977.

R.479 CCCN 15.04.10: The rate of duty on crude sperm oil is reduced from 20 per cent to free.

R.480 CCCN 49.11: The rate of duty on printed matter classifiable under sub-heading 49.11.90 is amended from 20 per cent or 1,100c per 100kg to 20 per cent.

R.481 CCCN 51.01: The rates of duty on certain yarns of polyester fibres (continuous) are amended.

R.482 CCCN 84.45: Specific provision is made for milling machines of the turret type and the rate of duty thereon is increased from free to 20 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.483 Item 306.01, CCCN 28.13: Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on hydrofluoric acid, for the manufacture of linear alkyl benzene.

R.484 Item 312.02, CCCN 65.01: 1 The provision for a rebate of duty on hoods of felt, neither blocked to shape not with made brims, for the manufacture of women's and girls' hats, is now restricted to hoods of furfelt. 2 The provision for a rebate of duty on hoods of felt, not further processed than blocked to shape and with made brims (cape lines) for the manufacture of women's or girl's hats, is withdrawn.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list no. 12/77, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 29 April 1977, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

1 Locking type fuel tank caps identifiable for use with motor vehicles, classifiable under tariff subheading 87.06.90.90

2 Polyethyleneimine and polyamideamine, classifiable under tariff subheading 39.01.65

3 Polyamide and super polyamide resins classifiable under tariff subheading 39.01.53. This application supersedes the application of the South African Synthetic Resin Manufacturers' Association published under list 38/76 on 19 November 1976.

4 Veneer sheets classifiable under tariff subheading 44.14.10.10 and 44.14.10.90, Plywood classifiable under tariff subheading 44.15.20 and blockboard, laminboard, battenboard and similar laminated wood products (including veneer panels and sheets), inlaid wood and wood marquetry, classifiable under tariff subheading 44.15.90

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Spain

Steel products: duty free quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 15 April, published royal decree 653/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing quotas of steel products free of import duties. The quotas will be in force during the whole of 1977 and the decree is backdated to have effect from 1 January 1977. The products are the following:

CCCN	Description	Quota in metric tonnes
73.08	Iron and steel coils for hot re-rolling with a thickness of not less than 2mm	350,000
73.12 D.1 73.13 D.3.a	First quality tinplate and tinned strips of non-special iron and steel imported directly from steel manufacturers, with a certificate of manufacture and in shipments of not less than 50 tonnes with each certificate	15,000
73.13 D.1.a 73.13 D.3.e 73.13 D.4 73.15 D.8.a.1	Hot rolled plates with a thickness of not less than 6mm and a width of at least 2,000mm to be used in the manufacture of pressure containers, tanks, boilers, ovens and large structures	5,000
73.13 D.2.b 73.13 D.2.c	Cold rolled plate for extra deep stamping, to be used in the manufacture of bathtubs	12,000
73.13 D.2.d	Cold rolled coils, with a maximum thickness of 0.4mm to be used in the manufacture of tinplate	2,000
73.15 C.7.a 73.15 D.7.a 73.15 G.7.a	Hot rolled strips from fine and alloyed steels	10,000

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 25 April 1977, published royal decree 767/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce, modifying the Spanish customs tariff to read as follows:

CCCN	Description	Import duty
85.21.E	Other electronic valves, lamps and tubes:	
1	Photo-emitting cells	1%
2	Pick-up tubes for television cameras	1%
3	Other	
a	Weighing up to 100g	35 % Minimum of 17.5% pesetas per unit
b	Other	35%

The above modification is valid from 25 April 1977.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Raw cocoa beans. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 25 April 1977, published royal decree 770/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce suspending the import duties to be paid on the importation of raw cocoa beans, tariff heading 18.01.A, valid from 21 March to 20 June 1977.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Duty-free import quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 25 April 1977 published royal decree 771/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing a duty-free quota for the importation of 10,000 tonnes of unalloyed unwrought aluminium (tariff heading 76.01.A.1). The period for this quota will be six months from 25 April 1977. The Ministry of Commerce will allocate the import licences for this quota.

The same *State Gazette* published royal decree 772/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing the following duty-free import quotas for 1977:

47.01.A.3.a.2.a: Pulp from wood, either chemical, sulphate or soda, bleached or semi-bleached, containing at least 94 per cent of alphacellulose. Quota 6,000 tonnes.
47.01.A.3.b.2.a: Pulp from wood, chemical, bisulphate, bleached or semi-bleached, containing at least 94 per cent of alphacellulose. Quota 2,000 tonnes.

The Ministry of Commerce will allocate the import licences for these quotas.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Sweden

Increase in rate of value added tax. The Swedish authorities have announced an increase in the general rate of value added tax to take effect from 1 June. The new rate will be 17.1 per cent, but since the tax is levied on the price or fee including the tax, the effective rate is 20.63 per cent.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

United States

Vitamins and minerals. The *Federal Register* dated 19 April 1977 published rules by the Food and Drug Administration revising certain regulations relating to vitamin and mineral preparations. Voluntary compliance may be immediate and all products shall fully comply by 1 January 1978.
A copy of the text is available.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Flotation requirements for boats. The *Federal Register* dated 18 April 1977 published rules by the Coast Guard Agency, Department of Transportation, amending the flotation standards for boats less than 20 ft in length. This regulation is effective from 1 August 1978 but manufacturers may voluntarily comply with the regulations before this date.
A copy of the text is available.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Uruguay

Import surcharges. Decree 125, 2 March, established a minimum surcharge of 10 per cent on all imported goods except those imported under the temporary admission regime or precious metals in the form of coins or ingots.

The exchange surcharge of 75 per cent, 120 per cent, 150 per cent, and 200 per cent currently levied on certain goods is reduced to 65 per cent, 90 per cent, 110 per cent and 150 per cent respectively.

The 7 per cent additional surcharge (established by decree 923/975) has been abolished.

A copy of decree 125 in Spanish is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Venezuela

Duty-free imports. Decree 2.111 of 5 April 1977 exempts from customs duty, and the payment of the tax for customs service, the following:

Tariff no.	Description of goods
01.02	Live animals of the bovine species
01.04	Live sheep and goats
02.01.01	Beef, fresh, chilled, or frozen

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1976	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,218	10,396	1,829	1,977	£ million		
1970	100.0	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	101.7	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,087	280	807
1972	104.3	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	131	−702	833
1973	110.3	36,003	10,279	1,872	2,390	1,127	404	102	382	−752	−2,334	1,582
1974	109.8	35,590	10,124	2,024	2,289	602	666	81	−111	−3,380	−5,221	1,841
1975	107.6	35,234	9,991	1,737	1,970	−680	−392	−111	−23	−1,635	−3,195	1,560
1976	108.9	35,290	9,562	1,651	1,898	−8	−4	22	1	−1,423	−3,592	2,169
1975 1st qtr.	109.4	8,988	2,534	471	492	−125	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	107.2	8,833	2,474	444	498	−267	−105	−54	−66	−295	−655	360
3rd qtr.	106.5	8,724	2,540	416	501	−208	−234	−29	38	−566	−967	401
4th qtr.	107.4	8,689	2,443	406	480	−80	−70	4	43	−230	−626	396
1976 1st qtr.	109.2	8,811	2,460	402	452	25	31	24	12	−80	−538	458
2nd qtr.	108.3	8,730	2,394	408	479	−97	−115	−22	−55	−439	−919	480
3rd qtr.	108.4	8,824	2 392	418	484	−22	4	10	22	−536	−1,148	612
4th qtr.	109.7	8,925	2,316	422	483	86	77	10	22	−368	−987	619
1977 1st qtr.		8,740 pe								−293	−953	660
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+0.3	+0.6	−3.0	+3.7	+3.9							
on a year earlier	+2.0	+0.9	−5.5	+2.2	−1.4							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis: at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	107.1	116.7
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	122.2	133.8
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.7ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	131.2	136.2
1975	101.3	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	150.0ø	125.6	126.4
1976	102.2	103.4	108.1	104.7	157.1	16.5	299.0	219.6	214.5	1,269.8ø	5.4ø	120.4ø	135.9	134.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.9	101.8	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,220.3	5.2	116.7	131.5	126.1
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.6	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,252.1	5.3	119.4	137.1	134.6
3rd qtr.	101.5	103.4	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,305.5	5.5	123.6	134.2	137.9
4th qtr.	103.2	104.5	108.5	113	165.8	15.0	329.9	233.9	220.6	1,316.8ø	5.6ø	..	140.8	138.1
1977 1st qtr.			105.2 p	104	174.1	16.5	341.7 p	248.0 p	224.6 p	1,330.2	5.6		140.5 p	142.1 p
1976 Apr.	102.4	103.3	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,241.8	5.3	122.5	135.6	132.1
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,253.3	5.3	120.0	137.2	134.7
June	100.4	101.0	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,261.1	5.3	115.7	138.5	137.1
July	101.4	103.6	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,288.9	5.5	118.6	130.4	139.4
Aug.	100.6	102.4	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,308.8	5.6	126.2	134.9	133.7
Sept.	102.4	104.3	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.7	5.6	125.9	137.3	140.4
Oct.	103.0	105.0	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,307.9	5.5	124.5	140.8	140.6
Nov.	103.4	104.9	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	..	..	..	138.1	140.1
Dec.	103.2	103.7	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.2	237.2	221.5	1,325.7 e	5.6 e	..	143.3	133.6
1977 Jan.	104.3	105.1	106.7	93	172.4	16.6	337.9	244.9	223.8	1,338.2	5.7	..	140.6	153.6
Feb.	104.0 p	105.2 p	105.7	118	174.1	16.2	339.7 p	248.2 p	224.8	1,331.4	5.6	150.5	138.0	133.8
Mar.			103½ p	102	175.8	16.7	347.4 p	250.8 p	225.1 p	1,321.1	5.6	157.3	142.8 p	139.0 p
Apr.										1,322.6 p	5.6 p	158.5 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+0.9	−0.1	−3.0	−7.7	+5.0		+3.6	+6.0	+1.8	−0.1			—	+3
a year earlier	+2.7	+3.6	−1.9	+1.6	+16.5		+28.2	+19.8	+9.3	+7.5			+7	+13

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of available months e estimate

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Economic indicators of the industrial countries

The following tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves. International publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented, where available, by later reports, denoted – (e). The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned. Exchange rates are those used in the basic data sources. The group of industrial countries is taken as comprising the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ie: western Europe, north America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Consumer prices apart, New Zealand is excluded from OECD totals in that insufficient information is available.

The tables replace those that have been published previously under the heading 'Economic Indicators of the EEC'. Every third month they are now incorporated with other tables in articles also headed 'Economic indicators of the industrial countries' which replace those previously titled 'Trade and production in industrial countries'.

Inquiries: 01-215 3442.

TABLE 1 Industrial production (excluding construction) seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC[1]	Canada	United States	Japan	OECD
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	3.6	43.3	11.9	
1971	103	98.7	104	101.8	105	99.9	106	100.1	102	105.8	102.0	102.8	101
1972	109	102.8	112	105.7	109	104.4	111	102.4	106	113.1	111.0	110.2	108
1973	116	115.1	120	113.2	119	114.5	119	110.8	115	122.5	120.4	127.4	119
1974	120	119.1	123	111.9	123	119.0	123	107.9	116	126.9	119.9	123.5	120
1975	108	93.0	112	105.0	115	108.5	117	102.6	107	121.0	109.3	110.4	110
1976	120	98.8	123	112.4	127	121.9	125	104.5	115	126.6	120.4	125.2	119
1975 1st quarter	111	101.4	114	105.8	115	110.2	118	106.3	109	121.3	105.0	106.5	108
2nd quarter	107	92.5	111	103.6	114	107.0	115	101.5	106	120.6	106.0	109.8	108
3rd quarter	105	82.6	110	102.9	115	105.9	113	100.6	105	120.1	111.8	112.2	110
4th quarter	110	94.4	114	108.3	117	110.8	121	101.8	109	121.6	114.4	112.9	113
1976 1st quarter	115	97.5	121	110.5	123	116.6	121	103.3	113	125.2	117.8	119.4	117
2nd quarter	121	104.1	122	112.2	125	120.7	123	104.5	115	127.3	120.0	125.7	119
3rd quarter	118	95.4	126	112.0	129	122.7	125	104.0	115	127.0	121.5	127.1	120
4th quarter	122	98.1	126	113.9	131	127.6	126	105.2	117	127.0	122.2	128.3	122
1977 1st quarter											123.8 (e)		
1975 July	101	89.7	110	98.6		110.3	109	100.9	103	119.7	105.2	113.7	109
August	100	60.6	110	103.7		97.9	111	99.1	103	121.0	107.0	111.9	110
September	108	96.4	111	106.4		110.1	114	101.2	106	120.1	108.9	113.8	112
October	107	89.2	113	107.2		111.1	116	102.0	108	119.5	113.0	114.2	112
November	110	97.6	113	108.7		113.0	122	102.3	109	122.3	114.6	111.8	113
December	109	97.7	117	109.4		107.6	120	101.0	109	123.0	115.3	114.0	114
1976 January	112	96.4	120	110.8		112.0	120	102.4	111	124.2	116.6	116.5	115
February	114	98.4	120	111.8		118.8	120	104.1	115	125.2	118.1	119.0	117
March	118	97.7	122	108.9		119.0	122	103.4	113	126.3	118.8	122.7	118
April	121	100.9	122	112.8		118.6	124	104.4	114	126.7	119.1	126.8	119
May	120	108.6	122	110.6		124.1	121	106.9	114	128.3	120.2	124.3	119
June	122	102.9	123	113.2		119.5	124	102.1	115	126.7	120.7	125.9	120
July	110	93.5	124	110.1		122.7	123	103.9	113	126.3	121.2	128.7	119
August	121	86.3	124	112.9		118.9	124	103.0	115	127.5	121.8	126.6	120
September	123	107.9	130	113.0		126.4	129	105.1	117	127.1	121.3	126.0	121
October	123	104.9	124	116.9		122.8	126	105.9	117	125.9	121.0	126.2	121
November	120	95.6	128	113.1		128.2	125	106.5	117	127.1	122.3	129.4	121 (e)
December	123	93.7	125	111.6		131.7	128	106.2	117 (e)	127.9	123.4	129.4	122 (e)
1977 January	122	102.5	130	116 (e)		130.1 (e)	129	107.2	120	128.4 (e)	122.4	129.5	123 (e)
February			127 (e)	113 (e)		130.6 (e)		106.8		128 (e)	123.6	128.7 (e)	
March											124.9 (e)		
% change latest three months On previous three months	−0.5	−2.4	Nil	−0.7	1.6	4.0	0.8	0.8	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.1
On a year earlier	10.3	Nil	7.0	2.6	12.0	16.0	5.5	4.1	7.7	3.2	5.0	10.9	7.0

[1] Excluding Denmark.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

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TABLE 3 Unemployment seasonally adjusted[7]

Numbers thousands

	Belgium[2]	Denmark[4]	France[1]	German F.R.[1]	Ireland[2]	Italy[3]	Nether-lands[1]	United Kingdom[1,8]	Canada[3]	United States[3]	Japan[3]
1971	71	30	337	185	42	613	62	776	552	4,993	639
1972	87	30	380	246	48	696	108	885	562	4,840	730
1973	92	20	394	274	44	669	110	611	520	4,305	670
1974	105	45	498	583	48	560	135	600[5]	525	5,076	740
1975	177	103	840	1,074	75	654	195	929	697	7,830	1,000
1976	229	107	933	1,060	84	732	211		736	7,288	1,080
1975 1st quarter	142	99	708	1,036	68	553	174	738	667	7,476	910
2nd quarter	170	103	829	1,040	74	727	191	847	703	8,087	962
3rd quarter	190	101	915	1,034	78	653	205	1,000	716	7,997	1,025
4th quarter	209	109	916	1,134	80	698	210	1,132	719	7,912	1,124
1976 1st quarter	210	109	907	1,280	82	625	208	1,223	704	7,151	1,067
2nd quarter	229	106	950	994	84	755	208	1,246	738	7,014	1,100
3rd quarter	240	104	951	933	85	780	221	1,308	751	7,439	1,102
4th quarter	237	115	932	1,007	83	775	206	n.a.	772	7,578	1,051
1977 1st quarter								1,330			
1975 August	191	104	864	1,121	77		207	997	742	7,924	1,029
September	199	107	933	1,097	79		210	1,034	709	7,970	1,056
October	211	109	928	1,132	80		211	1,089	726	8,092	1,139
November	211	107	913	1,137	80		211	1,138	718	7,939	1,126
December	208	117	906	1,153	81		211	1,175	712	7,735	1,105
1976 January	206	114	900	1,186	81		207	1,211	681	7,290	1,092
February	208	110	901	1,328	82		212	1,232	719	7,136	1,066
March	216	105	921	1,181	82		206	1,227	713	7,027	1,043
April	221	101	929	1,098	84		204	1,234	761	7,040	1,080
May	228	99	953	959	85		207	1,250	731	6,860	1,108
June	238	99	967	931	83		213	1,257	722	7,143	1,112
July	238	105	950	954	85		217	1,294	751	7,426	1,117
August	244	103	962	950	86		225	1,309	750	7,506	1,120
September	237	105	941	912	84		220	1,319	753	7,384	1,068
October	230	113	935	952	83		214	1,305	784	7,564	1,093
November	244	111	931	987	83		207	n.a.	754	7,651	1,102
December	238	122	930	1,082	83		199	1,326	778	7,519	957
1977 January	239	125	945	1,229			196	1,338	780	6,958	997
February	239	132	972	1,194			193	1,331	829	7,183	1,032 (e)
March			1,003 (e)	1,189 (e)			193 (e)	1,321		7,064 (e)	
April								1,330			
Rate % in latest month[6]	9.1	10.5 (e)	5.4 (e)	5.3	12.2	3.9	4.9 (e)	5.6	7.9	7.5	2.0
% change latest three months											
On previous three months	0.7	15.2	4.4	19.6	−2.3	−0.6	−6.1	−0.4	4.2	−6.7	−8.5
On a year earlier	15.1	11.1	7.3	−2.3	3.3	11.0	−6.9	7.8	13.0	−1.2	−8.5

Unemployment data are defined and collected on different bases in different countries. The following notes indicate main variations preventing direct international comparison.

1 Registered unemployed (excluding school leavers): rate per cent of total employees
2 Insured unemployed: rate per cent of total insured population.
3 Labour force sample survey: rate per cent of total labour force.
4 Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries: rate per cent of total numbers insured.
5 Estimated in the absence of figures for December 1974.
6 Averaged over component months. Rates per cent relate to the last period for which unemployment figures are given.
7 Some seasonally adjusted data have been estimated from unadjusted material.
8 UK per cent changes are calculated with a non-rounded series.

Source: OECD Main Economic Indicators and *Department of Employment Gazette*.

TABLE 5 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	Canada	United States	Japan	OECD
1971	104.3	104.7	108	105.3	105.3	108.9	104.8	107.5	109.4	106	102.9	104.3	106.1	105
1972	110.0	110.1	113	111.7	111.1	118.4	110.8	115.9	117.2	113	107.8	107.7	110.9	110
1973	117.7	116.8	123	119.9	118.8	131.8	122.4	125.2	128.0	122	116.0	114.4	124.5	119
1974	132.6	128.0	142	136.3	127.1	154.2	146.2	137.3	148.4	138	128.6	127.0	154.2	134
1975	149.6	141.7	156	152.2	134.7	186.4	171.3	151.3	184.4	157	142.5	138.6	172.4	150
1976	163.2	155.6	170	166.8	140.8	219.9	199.6	164.6	214.9	175	153.2	146.6	188.4	163
1975 1st quarter	143.9	136.3	152	147.0	132.0	177.7	164.9	145.8	166.9	150	137.1	135.0	166.4	144
2nd quarter	147.7	140.1	156	150.6	134.5	188.5	169.3	149.9	182.7	156	140.1	137.1	172.1	148
3rd quarter	151.1	143.1	158	153.9	135.5	187.1	172.9	152.9	190.8	160	144.9	140.1	173.6	151
4th quarter	155.4	147.3	157	157.3	136.7	192.2	178.1	156.3	197.3	163	147.9	142.3	177.7	155
1976 1st quarter	158.7	151.1	162	161.1	139.0	206.3	184.8	159.0	204.4	168	149.8	143.7	181.4	158
2nd quarter	161.8	154.5	168	164.8	141.1	219.1	196.5	164.3	211.9	173	152.1	145.5	187.7	161
3rd quarter	164.9	156.9	171	168.6	141.2	222.4	201.7	165.4	216.8	176	154.3	147.8	189.8	164
4th quarter	167.6	159.7	178	172.9	141.9	231.8	215.5	169.6	226.8	182	156.6	149.4	194.5	168
1977 1st quarter	170.9 (e)				144.6 (e)	240.7		170.6 (e)			159.9 (e)	152.1 (e)	198.8 (e)	
1975 December	156.6	148.3	158	158.2	137.1		179.2	156.7	199.7	164	148.5	143.0	177.2	155
1976 January	158.0	150.5	159	159.9	138.2		181.1	157.5	202.3	166	149.3	143.3	180.4	157
February	158.5	151.3	160	161.0	139.2	206.3	185.1	159.0	204.9	168	149.8	143.7	181.6	158
March	159.5	151.6	167	162.4	139.7		188.8	160.5	206.0	170	150.4	144.0	182.3	159
April	161.0	153.8	167	163.8	140.6		193.8	163.9	210.0	172	151.0	144.6	187.2	160
May	162.2	154.7	169	164.9	141.1	219.1	197.7	164.5	212.3	174	152.3	145.5	187.7	161
June	162.4	154.9	169	165.6	141.5		198.6	164.5	213.4	174	153.0	146.3	188.1	162
July	163.7	156.1	169	167.2	140.9		199[6]	163.7	213.8	175	153.6	147.1	189.1	163
August	164.4	157.3	170	168.4	141.4	222.4	201.8	165.4	216.8	176	154.3	147.8	187.6	164
September	166.5	157.5	174	170.2	141.4		205.2	167.2	219.7	178	155.0	148.4	192.6	165
October	166.9	158.7	176	171.8	141.5		211.1	169.5	223.7	181	156.1	149.0	193.8	167
November	167.5	159.7	178	173.2	141.8	231.8	215.7	169.7	226.8	182	156.6	149.4	193.8	167
December	168.4	160.8	179	173.8	142.5		218.6	169.7	229.8	184	157.1	149.9	195.8	169
1977 January	170.1	162.4	179	174.3	143.8		221.7 (e)	169.2	235.9	186 (e)	158.4	150.7	197.7	170
February	171.4	163.5	179	175.5	144.7	240.7	226.8 (e)	170.6	238.2	188 (e)	159.9	152.3	198.8	172 (e)
March	171.2 (e)				145.2 (e)			171.9 (e)			161.5 (e)	153.2 (e)	199.8 (e)	
% change														
latest month on same month a year earlier	7.3 (e)	8.1	11.9	9.0	3.9 (e)	16.7	22.5 (e)	7.1 (e)	16.3	11.9 (e)	7.4 (e)	6.4	9.6 (e)	8.9 (e)
latest three months on previous three months	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	3.8	5.6	0.6	5.0	3.1	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.4
on previous three months a year earlier	7.7	8.1	12.6	9.3	4.0	16.7	22.3	7.3	16.0	12.0	6.7	5.8	9.6	8.7

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 8 **Exports (fob)** Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US $ million

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	Canada	United States[2]	Japan[2]	OECD
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	16,134	43,224	19,320	220,045
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	23,356	128,084	17,676	44,211	23,994	246,037
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	15,392	24,340	153,152	20,184	49,676	28,591	290,784
1973	22,416	6,120	35,952	67,440	2,124	22,236	23,952	28,862	210,684	25,200	71,316	36,936	398,880
1974	28,260	7,716	45,900	89,160	2,628	30,288	32,436	37,188	275,100	32,784	98,508	55,536	532,932
1975	28,812	8,712	52,212	90,024	3,216	34,824	34,440	43,056	295,992	32,304	107,652	55,752	567,804
1976	32,844	9,108	55,812	102,036	3,312	36,924	38,748	45,683	325,044	38,628	114,996	67,272	630,732
1975 1 quarter	7,731	2,172	13,434	23,481	783	8,685	8,823	11,105	76,542	8,022	27,114	14,781	146,070
2nd quarter	6,981	2,196	13,248	23,025	753	8,571	8,565	10,720	74,367	7,890	25,803	13,734	140,847
3rd quarter	6,540	2,073	12,591	21,279	798	8,646	8,052	10,234	70,488	7,842	27,171	13,344	136,887
4th quarter	7,305	2,243	12,939	22,329	834	8,943	9,009	10,858	74,763	8,220	27,837	14,130	143,982
1976 1st quarter	7,467	2,136	13,395	23,427	735	8,427	8,949	11,223	76,086	9,102	26,910	15,729	147,453
2nd quarter	7,701	2,223	13,893	24,441	820	8,919	8,733	11,220	78,183	9,555	28,668	16,443	153,063
3rd quarter	8,151	2,340	13,881	25,851	832	9,327	9,858	11,307	81,696	9,996	29,649	16,977	160,509
4th quarter	9,207	2,433	14,556	27,768	903	10,089	11,241	11,681	88,104	9,402	29,499	17,685	166,971
1977 1st quarter								12,684					
1975 November	2,632	724	4,315	7,764	290	3,182	3,095	3,356	25,591	2,709	9,527	4,467	48,479
December	2,324	711	4,414	7,392	246	2,916	3,037	3,562	24,785	2,857	9,376	4,849	48,651
1976 January	2,488	768	4,425	7,747	247	3,062	2,903	3,600	25,456	2,995	8,840	5,037	48,624
February	2,648	683	4,637	7,692	247	2,591	3,017	3,552	25,328	3,210	8,858	5,223	49,290
March	2,495	698	4,478	8,145	228	2,813	3,155	3,686	25,931	2,929	8,920	5,610	50,127
April	2,550	723	4,568	7,981	290	2,775	2,899	3,552	25,551	3,094	9,114	5,299	49,504
May	2,622	780	4,899	8,459	274	3,319	3,009	3,636	27,230	3,095	9,889	5,648	52,484
June	2,594	738	4,488	8,100	249	2,725	2,785	3,634	25,511	3,389	9,689	5,640	51,276
July	2,364	757	4,435	8,040	266	3,131	3,123	3,499	25,800	3,253	9,905	5,576	51,770
August	2,766	785	4,713	8,378	257	3,032	3,381	3,706	27,157	3,432	9,843	5,545	53,289
September	3,021	798	4,733	9,434	308	3,165	3,353	3,841	28,738	3,313	9,902	5,857	55,449
October	3,148	767	4,753	9,024	323	3,387	3,435	3,780	28,710	3,138	9,725	5,988	54,619
November	2,880	827	4,782	9,097	290	3,493	3,846	3,797	29,069	3,021	9,341	5,733	54,663
December	3,179	839	5,021	9,648	291	3,208	3,960	4,108	30,325	3,244	10,433	5,964	57,690
1977 January		855	5,175	9,298	309	3,495		4,235		3,301	9,597	6,420 (e)	
February			5,213 (e)					4,160			9,810		
March								4,290					
% change latest three months:													
On previous three months	13.0	7.3	8.0	0.7	0.2	6.4	14.0	8.6	7.8	−3.2	3.0	4.2	4.0
On a year earlier	27.4	14.4	14.3	22.4	13.7	11.3	23.0	17.0	17.7	11.7	10.2	26.2	15.5

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 9 **Imports (cif)** Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US $ million

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	Canada	United States[2, 3]	Japan[2]	OECD
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	13,308	39,960	18,876	225,649
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	15,460	45,633	19,716	250,717
1972	14,879	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	18,924	55,819	23,463	297,984
1973	21,936	7,704	37,380	54,492	2,784	27,816	24,360	38,872	215,232	23,304	69,120	38,316	410,820
1974	29,700	9,852	52,824	68,976	3,816	40,968	33,204	54,345	293,568	32,292	100,968	62,112	583,080
1975	30,708	10,332	54,240	74,208	3,804	38,364	35,148	53,608	300,048	33,960	96,936	57,864	587,376
1976	33,352	12,420	64,392	87,780	4,200	43,368	39,348	56,373	343,428	37,956	121,788	64,776	675,252
1975 1st quarter	7,467	2,424	13,902	18,552	981	9,471	9,240	14,229	76,083	8,568	24,813	14,832	150,342
2nd quarter	7,314	2,412	13,176	18,630	924	9,024	8,739	12,956	73,311	8,457	22,683	13,779	143,442
3rd quarter	6,945	2,478	12,879	17,982	903	9,381	8,202	13,175	71,949	8,337	24,030	14,337	142,257
4th quarter	7,614	2,841	14,277	19,128	1,008	10,410	9,039	13,104	77,517	8,556	25,410	14,964	150,357
1976 1st quarter	7,743	2,820	15,015	19,956	1,023	10,035	8,847	13,363	78,684	9,240	27,333	14,973	155,022
2nd quarter	7,986	2,958	15,399	20,775	975	10,578	9,444	13,874	82,146	9,630	29,295	15,300	161,292
3rd quarter	8,286	3,186	16,335	22,431	1,059	10,620	10,002	14,328	86,304	9,612	32,043	17,004	172,890
4th quarter	9,225	3,381	17,628	24,240	1,125	12,057	11,658	14,438	93,894	9,405	32,631	17,427	182,976
1977 1st quarter								15,367					
1975 November	2,605	978	4,897	6,307	357	3,637	3,203	4,367	26,349	2,907	8,555	4,792	50,654
December	2,565	991	4,786	6,562	345	3,676	3,116	4,439	26,478	2,848	8,555	5,221	50,833
1976 January	2,671	888	5,043	6,534	332	3,177	2,959	4,467	26,022	3,110	9,425	5,126	51,913
February	2,523	972	5,125	6,699	356	3,193	2,902	4,552	26,340	3,154	8,820	5,037	51,781
March	2,559	996	4,971	6,811	353	3,429	3,041	4,342	26,408	3,028	9,226	4,884	51,960
April	2,661	993	5,020	7,146	321	3,641	3,282	4,548	27,665	3,238	9,651	4,975	53,540
May	2,822	981	5,479	6,983	338	3,692	3,176	4,620	28,157	3,070	9,192	4,899	53,734
June	2,572	989	4,852	6,680	326	3,280	3,014	4,697	26,449	3,294	9,883	5,120	53,319
July	2,639	919	4,941	7,089	332	3,422	3,238	4,818	27,438	3,199	10,992	5,473	56,017
August	2,757	1,103	5,498	7,778	350	3,643	3,415	4,635	29,174	3,268	10,377	5,699	58,028
September	2,885	1,165	5,896	7,563	376	3,555	3,350	4,869	29,692	3,144	10,673	5,833	58,846
October	3,028	1,070	5,825	7,748	355	3,782	3,645	4,609	30,194	3,066	10,748	5,785	58,919
November	3,088	1,111	6,064	7,763	392	4,532	3,567	4,890	31,515	3,230	10,679	6,054	61,317
December	3,109	1,200	5,740	8,730	378	3,742	4,446	4,878	32,185	3,108	11,204	5,588	62,740
1977 January		1,099	6,053	8,387	460	3,870		5,538		3,257	11,430	6,153 (e)	
February								4,889			11,760(e)		
March								4,944					
% change latest three months:													
On previous three months	11.4	2.2	3.7	7.8	13.8	10.6	16.7	6.9	8.8	1.2	7.2	2.8	5.8
On a year earlier	21.0	19.4	21.3	28.2	19.0	15.8	29.3	15.0	20.6	8.2	29.6	17.5	21.5

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

Insolvencies in England and Wales: first quarter 1977

Insolvencies fell in the first quarter of 1977, though after allowing for special factors during the quarter their underlying level was probably little changed from that of the previous quarter.

Table 1 shows that, on a seasonally adjusted basis, total company liquidations fell to about 1,370 in the first quarter of 1977, compared with about 1,610 in the previous quarter; this is lower than in any quarter since the second quarter of 1975 but is still an historically high level. Compulsory liquidations rose in the first quarter, however, to about 630, which has only been exceeded twice since at least the beginning of 1960, and the fall in total company liquidations was more than accounted for by a fall in creditors' voluntary liquidations. The fall was concentrated in the early part of the quarter, following a particularly high level at the end of the previous quarter; by the end of the quarter creditors' voluntary liquidations were again high. The seasonally adjusted total for all company liquidations in the six months ending in March 1977 was about 2,990 compared with about 2,930 in the previous six months, an increase of about 2 per cent.

Before seasonal adjustment, there were 1,394 company liquidations in the first quarter of 1977, made up of 647 compulsory liquidations and 747 creditors' voluntary liquidations. The total is about 10 per cent lower than a year earlier, with compulsory liquidations about 6 per cent lower and creditors' voluntary liquidations about 14 per cent lower.

The level of receiving orders fell sharply in the first quarter of 1977 but this was probably the result of provisions in the Insolvency Act 1976 which changed some of the monetary limits in bankruptcy proceedings and which came into force on 20 December 1976 and the increase in deposits on bankruptcy petitions, by amendment to the Bankruptcy Rules 1952, which came into force on 17 December 1976 (see the notes at the end of this article).

Table 1 shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,260 receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) in the first quarter of 1977, a fall of about 31 per cent from the level of the previous quarter. Before seasonal adjustment, the number of receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) in the quarter was 1,370, a fall of about 29 per cent compared with a year earlier.

High court and county court figures

The numbers of receiving and administration orders and of compulsory winding-up orders made in the high court and county courts during

TABLE 1 Insolvencies

England and Wales — Number

	Bankruptcies					Company liquidations					
	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			Seasonally adjusted		
	Total	Receiving orders	Administration orders	Deeds of arrangement	Total	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary
1968	4,298	4,123	27	148		3,165	1,108	2,057			
1969	4,772	4,532	20	220		3,510	1,181	2,329			
1970	5,087	4,878	29	180		3,689	1,269	2,420			
1971	4,793	4,630	13	150		3,506	1,166	2,340			
1972	4,337	4,225	19	93		3,063	1,150	1,913			
1973	3,917	3,805	12	100		2,575	1,080	1,495			
1974	5,718	5,595	13	110		3,720	1,395	2,325			
1975	7,271	7,123	20	128		5 398	2,287	3,111			
1976	7,172	7,054	19	99		6,071	2,501	3,570			
1968 1st quarter	1,231	1,190		41	1,121	897	307	590	850	287	563
2nd quarter	1,024	985		39	1,040	775	279	496	772	271	501
3rd quarter	932	907		25	1,020	586	148	438	731	270	461
4th quarter	1,111	1,068		43	1,117	907	374	533	812	280	532
1969 1st quarter	1,231	1,173		58	1,135	872	318	554	824	296	528
2nd quarter	1,095	1,055		40	1,094	871	308	563	864	298	566
3rd quarter	1,215	1,157		58	1,319	798	171	627	957	305	652
4th quarter	1,231	1,167		64	1,224	969	384	585	865	282	583
1970 1st quarter	1,314	1,273		41	1,236	981	318	663	942	305	637
2nd quarter	1,321	1,280		41	1,308	966	339	627	971	335	636
3rd quarter	1,219	1,174		45	1,324	744	169	575	893	303	590
4th quarter	1,233	1,180		53	1,219	998	443	555	883	326	557
1971 1st quarter	1,171	1,145		26	1,110	760	310	450	730	297	433
2nd quarter	1,253	1,205		48	1,237	945	285	660	942	275	667
3rd quarter	1,137	1,092		45	1,233	777	172	605	925	308	617
4th quarter	1,232	1,201		31	1,213	1,024	399	625	909	286	623
1972 1st quarter	1,222	1,197		25	1,166	877	291	586	855	284	571
2nd quarter	1,200	1,175		25	1,187	799	293	506	799	284	515
3rd quarter	866	844		22	945	614	160	454	753	291	462
4th quarter	1,049	1,028		21	1,039	773	406	367	656	291	365
1973 1st quarter	1,011	982		29	954	710	273	437	700	271	429
2nd quarter	952	919		33	941	653	308	345	655	302	353
3rd quarter	875	858		17	955	463	130	333	579	241	338
4th quarter	1,079	1,058		21	1,067	749	369	380	641	266	375
1974 1st quarter	1,322	1,296		26	1,230	713	264	449	701	258	443
2nd quarter	1,341	1,314		27	1,329	844	309	535	847	297	550
3rd quarter	1,377	1,355		22	1,500	829	224	605	1,023	415	608
4th quarter	1,678	1,643		35	1,659	1,334	598	736	1,149	425	724
1975 1st quarter	1,938	1,900		38	1,793	1,238	540	698	1,228	538	690
2nd quarter	1,816	1,783		33	1,814	1,317	593	724	1,328	582	746
3rd quarter	1,719	1,693		26	1,879	1,138	279	859	1,393	532	861
4th quarter	1,798	1,767		31	1,785	1,705	875	830	1,449	635	814
1976 1st quarter	1,921	1,891		30	1,773	1,554	687	867	1,529	668	861
2nd quarter	1,807	1,785		22	1,813	1,490	653	837	1,492	629	863
3rd quarter	1,592	1,571		21	1,744	1,150	324	826	1,437	609	828
4th quarter	1,852	1,826		26	1,842	1,877	837	1,040	1,613	595	1,018
1977 1st quarter	1,370	1,347		23	1,263	1,394	647	747	1,372	630	742

the first quarter of 1977 and the four preceding quarters were as follows:

	1976				1977
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr
Receiving and administration orders					
High Court	379	467	361	654	495
County courts	1,512	1,318	1,210	1,172	852
Total	1,891	1,785	1,571	1,826	1,347
Compulsory liquidation winding-up orders					
High Court	552	527	190	718	533
County courts	135	126	134	119	114
Total	687	653	324	837	647

By comparison with the figures for receiving and administration orders for the first quarter of 1976, the high court figures rose sharply and the county court figures fell sharply. The increase in the high court reflects a back-log of cases following a build-up during 1976, whereas the decline in the county courts is probably the result of the increase in monetary limits and in deposits on petitions referred to earlier.

The Insolvency Act 1976 also increased the minimum debt required to support a statutory demand under the Companies Act 1948, but it is not thought that this will result in any substantial reduction in the number of company liquidations.

Industrial analysis

Table 2 gives the industrial analysis of receiving orders administered (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) up to the fourth quarter of 1976. This table excludes orders that were rescinded before the business of the debtor could be investigated and deeds that were voided; the figures therefore do not agree with those in table 1, which are for all receiving orders, administration orders, and deeds of arrangement that were made. The quarterly data tend to vary considerably from quarter to quarter though there is a tendency for certain groups, eg construction, always to form a large proportion of the total. The compilation of the data for the fourth quarter of each year differs from that for the first three quarters. For these reasons it is preferable in this article to look at changes on an annual basis. The table shows that there was very little change in the industrial analysis between 1975 and 1976. About 71 per cent of receiving orders in 1976 were for self-employed persons, within which about 3 per cent were in manufacturing and about 19 per cent in distribution, very much the same as in the previous year. Construction remained the largest single category with, as in the previous year, about 23 per cent of the total.

Table 3 gives the industrial analysis of company liquidations up to the fourth quarter of 1976. Comparing the fourth quarter of 1976 with the previous quarter, the largest rises in percentages of total liquidations were in other consumer services, where the percentage nearly doubled to about 11 per cent of the total, and in other industries, where there was a 50 per cent increase to about 10 per cent of the total; the percentage in distribution also rose a little. The percentage in manufacturing fell by about three points and the percentage in financial and professional services, which had fallen in the two preceding quarters, fell again in the fourth quarter by about four points. Other changes were very small. Comparing 1976 as a whole with the previous year, the largest change was the increase in other consumer services, where the percentage more than doubled to about 8 per cent of the total. The other changes were all fairly small. The percentage in manufacturing fell slightly to about 22 per cent of the total and the percentage in construction, as usual the largest single category, also fell slightly to about 17 per cent of the total.

Small changes in the industrial analyses should not necessarily be regarded as significant, if only because of the difficulty of making

TABLE 2 Industrial analysis of receiving orders administered[1]

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1975	1976						1975	1976			
Industry	1975	1976	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1975	1976	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr
SELF-EMPLOYED														
Agriculture	167	135	68	36	40	27	32	2.4	2.0	3.3	2.2	2.8	1.9	1.4
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—
Chemicals	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metals and engineering	75	65	33	13	9	5	38	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.4	1.6
Textiles and clothing	42	44	20	11	5	10	18	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.8
Timber and furniture	43	31	10	12	2	9	8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.3
Paper, printing and publishing	23	29	9	3	5	2	19	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.8
Other manufacturing	13	16	4	3	2	2	9	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4
Total manufacturing	199	185	79	42	23	28	92	2.9	2.7	3.9	2.5	1.6	2.0	4.0
Construction	1,543	1,564	456	361	360	316	527	22.6	23.0	22.4	21.7	25.1	22.8	22.8
Road haulage	458	405	160	77	83	70	175	6.7	6.0	7.9	4.6	5.8	5.0	7.6
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	54	77	14	4	17	9	47	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.2	1.2	0.6	2.0
Non-consumer goods	68	60	24	13	18	4	25	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.8	1.3	0.3	1.1
Retailing:														
Food	380	382	131	84	75	87	136	5.6	5.6	6.4	5.1	5.2	6.3	5.9
Non-food	718	764	257	174	132	147	311	10.5	11.2	12.6	10.5	9.2	10.6	13.4
Financial and professional services	306	318	91	75	58	42	143	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.0	6.2
Hotels and restaurants	291	359	107	81	55	91	132	4.3	5.3	5.3	4.9	3.8	6.6	5.7
Garages	307	249	154	54	37	39	119	4.5	3.7	7.6	3.3	2.6	2.8	5.1
Other consumer services	216	233	70	67	44	29	93	3.2	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.1	2.1	4.0
Other industries	82	70	41	14	18	15	23	1.2	1.0	2.0	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.0
Total	4,789	4,801	1,652	1,082	960	904	1,855	70.2	70.6	81.1	65.2	66.9	65.2	80.1
OTHER INDIVIDUALS														
Employees, no occupation and unemployed	1,512	1,467	175	472	377	378	240	22.2	21.6	8.6	28.4	26.3	27.3	10.4
Directors and promoters of companies	405	430	186	86	67	77	200	5.9	6.3	9.1	5.2	4.7	5.6	8.6
Occupation unknown	115	101	25	20	32	28	21	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.0	0.9
Total	2,032	1,998	386	578	476	483	461	29.8	29.4	18.9	34.8	33.1	34.8	19.9
All receiving orders administered	6,821	6,799	2,038	1,660	1,436	1,387	2,316	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note

(1) Receiving orders made during the year, *less* those consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year, together with administration orders and deeds of arrangement on the same basis. The totals for all receiving orders administered are thus not equal to the totals shown in table 1. The construction of the quarterly figures is explained in the notes at the end of the article.

TABLE 3 Industrial analysis of total compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1975	1976						1975	1976			
Industry	1975	1976	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1975	1976	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr
Agriculture	48	26	13	12	6	5	3	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.2
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	62	54	15	21	9	10	14	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.6	0.9	0.7
Chemicals	53	48	18	12	11	12	13	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.7
Metals and engineering	400	437	116	116	102	84	135	7.4	7.2	6.8	7.5	6.8	7.3	7.2
Textiles and clothing	230	265	74	65	66	56	78	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.9	4.2
Timber and furniture	114	124	26	30	37	22	35	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.9
Paper, printing and publishing	207	164	74	36	52	38	38	3.8	2.7	4.3	2.3	3.5	3.3	2.0
Other manufacturing	209	263	78	52	72	57	82	3.9	4.3	4.6	3.3	4.8	5.0	4.4
Total manufacturing	1,275	1,355	401	332	349	279	395	23.6	22.3	23.5	21.4	23.4	24.3	21.0
Construction	956	1,004	257	232	258	188	326	17.7	16.5	15.1	14.9	17.3	16.3	17.4
Road haulage	304	273..	74	64	68	61	80	5.6	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.6	5.3	4.3
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	143	198	42	36	46	37	79	2.6	3.3	2.5	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.2
Non-consumer goods	318	248	82	61	54	51	82	5.9	4.1	4.8	3.9	3.6	4.4	4.4
Retailing:														
Food	119	115	37	35	24	20	36	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.7	1.9
Non-food	441	639	159	158	166	112	203	8.2	10.5	9.3	10.2	11.1	9.7	10.8
Financial and professional services	908	923	291	277	255	178	213	16.8	15.2	17.1	17.8	17.1	15.5	11.3
Hotels and restaurants	157	162	44	52	31	36	43	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.3	2.1	3.1	2.3
Garages	123	121	39	22	33	37	29	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.4	2.2	3.2	1.5
Other consumer services	184	489	80	149	78	65	197	3.4	8.1	4.7	9.6	5.2	5.7	10.5
Other industries	422	518	186	124	122	81	191	7.8	8.5	10.9	8.0	8.2	7.0	10.2
Total	5,398	6,071	1,705	1,554	1,490	1,150	1,877	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

precise industrial classification in many cases and the erratic nature of the series.

Notes

An article describing these statistics and giving quarterly figures from the beginning of 1960 to the end of 1974 (with industrial analyses from the beginning of 1969 to the third quarter of 1974) was published in *Economic Trends* for March 1975.

The figures for bankruptcies in table 1 refer to persons, who are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Act 1914 and the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act 1926 or who make arrangements with their creditors under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914. A receiving order is made by the court on the petition of a creditor if it is satsified that the debtor has committed an act of bankruptcy, as listed in section 1 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, or on the petition of the debtor himself. The order makes the official receiver, who is an officer of the court, receiver of the debtor's estate and deprives the debtor of the right to deal with it. Administration orders, which are made under section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, relate to deceased insolvents. Deeds of arrangement relate to arrangements between debtors and creditors that are reached, without recourse to the courts, under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914.

Insolvent partnerships are dealt with under the bankruptcy acts and are included in the figures for receiving orders in table 1. A single receiving order may be made against a partnership or receiving orders may be made against partners individually, when each is included in table 1. If separate receiving orders are made, they are consolidated before being proceeded with and appear as a single receiving order in table 2.

Receiving orders administered, referred to in table 2, are those receiving orders not consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year. For the first three quarters of the year the industrial analysis in table 2 is compiled about two months after the end of the quarter, to allow time for the statistics to be collected. Some of these receiving orders may later be rescinded. The analysis for the fourth quarter is obtained by subtracting the figures for the first three quarters from the figures for the full year. The industrial analysis for the full year takes account of revisions to the figures for the first three quarters and these are reflected in the analysis for the fourth quarter. It is therefore not appropriate to compare the industrial analysis for the fourth quarter with the analyses for the earlier quarters of the year.

Insolvent companies are dealt with under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967 and the figures for company liquidations in table 1 refer to the two types of liquidation that involve insolvency. The figures for compulsory liquidations relate to winding-up orders made by the courts. The figures for creditors' voluntary liquidations, in which the company and its creditors come to terms without court proceedings, relate to notifications of resolutions to wind up. There is a third type, members' voluntary liquidations: these do not involve insolvency and they are not included in the figures in this article.

The Insolvency Act 1976 changed some aspects of the law relating to both bankruptcy and company liquidation. Its provisions include an increase in the minimum debt to support a creditor's petition for bankruptcy from £50 to £200; and under an amendment to the Bankruptcy Rules 1952, the deposits required on bankruptcy petitions were increased from £5 to £50 for debtors' petitions and from £7.50 to £90 for creditors' petitions. It is expected that these changes will have a substantial effect on the number of bankruptcy petitions, and hence on the number of receiving orders, from the beginning of 1977.

There is considerable seasonal variation between quarters in the insolvency series, mainly because about 25 per cent of all receiving orders and about 80 per cent of all compulsory liquidations are dealt with by the High Court, which has fewer sittings in the third quarter compared with other quarters because of the long vacation. For receiving orders, the seasonal fall in the third quarter is made-up mainly in the following first quarter. Compulsory liquidations are more strongly seasonal, with a large fall in the third quarter followed by a large rise in the fourth. Creditor's voluntary liquidations are not particularly seasonal but seasonally adjusted figures for them are included in table 1.

Questions are often asked about the distribution of insolvencies by size or by region but it would be impracticable or very costly to compile statistics of this sort. There is no satisfactory measure of the size of an insolvency because a business tends to decline over a period and there are the problems of deciding for what time the size should be assessed and what measure should be used, and of obtaining this information retrospectively.

For regional statistics of bankruptcy, figures for receiving orders dealt with in the various courts provide some basis because cases are transferred to the court for the area in which the debtor lives or has his place of business. Annual figures for receiving orders analysed by court are given in the Bankruptcy General Annual Report. Regional statistics of company liquidations cannot be obtained in this way, because of the large proportion of cases dealt with by the High Court. There is also the difficulty that, although the address of the company's registered office may be known, the activities of the company are often located elsewhere and often extend over a wide area.

Inquiries: Economics and Statistics Division 6a, Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection, Room 142, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (01-215 5538).

Motor vehicle output in March

Production of cars in the five weeks ending 2 April of 112,450 units (22,490 per week) was 21 per cent below the March 1976 level. In the first quarter as a whole car output was 11 per cent below that a year earlier. Production of commercial vehicles was 41,004 units (8,201 per week), a rise of 10 per cent from the March 1976 level. Over the first quarter of 1977, commercial vehicle output was 14 per cent above that in the first quarter of 1976.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures shown in table 2.)

Cars

Car production in March of 93,000 units was 16 per cent below the monthly average for 1976. Output in the first quarter of 1977 is 5 per cent below that of the previous quarter; within the total, home market production fell by 2 per cent while production for export fell by 8 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

Commercial vehicle production in March of 34,900 units was 12 per cent above the monthly average for 1976. In the first quarter of 1977, the level of production was 16 per cent above that of the final quarter of 1976, with production for the home market rising by 5 per cent while production for export rose by 28 per cent.

Inquiries: 01-212 0788.

Notes to table 2

The seasonally-adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	15.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975	61	45	106	16.2	15.5	31.7
1976	64	47	111	15.2	15.8	31.0
1977						
1976 1st quarter	67	49	116	14.7	16.9	31.6
2nd quarter	68	46	114	15.2	16.2	31.4
3rd quarter	62	44	106	15.0	15.4	30.4
4th quarter	59	48	107	15.9	14.7	30.6
1977 1st quarter	57	45	102	16.7	18.8	35.5
2nd quarter						
3rd quarter						
4th quarter						
1976 January	58	44	102	13.1	16.8	29.9
February	74	53	127	15.4	17.1	32.5
March	70	50	120	15.6	16.9	32.5
April	65	46	111	14.5	15.9	30.4
May	72	48	120	16.1	16.8	32.9
June	66	46	112	15.1	15.8	30.9
July	82	49	131	17.1	16.0	33.1
August	43	39	82	12.9	14.4	27.3
September	62	44	106	15.0	15.7	30.7
October	64	47	111	15.5	15.4	30.9
November	61	51	112	17.6	16.0	33.6
December	51	48	99	14.6	12.8	27.4
1977 January	66	53	119	17.9	19.6	37.5
February	53	42	95	16.0	18.0	34.0
March	53	40	93	16.1	18.8	34.9
Average of:						
Oct-Dec 1976	59	49	108	15.9	14.7	30.6
Jan-Mar 1977	57	45	102	16.7	18.8	35.5
Percentage change	−2	−8	−5	+5	+28	+16

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery-operated road vehicles are excluded.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52	735,532	532,164	1,267,696	24,379	194,319	186,386	380,705	7,321
1976	53	768,481	564,968	1,333,449	25,159	182,554	189,503	372,057	7,020
1977	52								
1976 1st quarter	13	209,955	148,844	358,799	27,600	44,978	48,785	93,763	7,213
2nd quarter	13	205,839	143,677	349,516	26,886	46,510	51,249	97,759	7,520
3rd quarter	13	145,427	108,233	253,660	19,512	36,730	39,225	75,955	5,843
4th quarter	14	207,260	164,214	371,474	26,534	54,336	50,244	104,580	7,470
1977 1st quarter	13	181,025	137,426	318,451	24,496	51,615	55,128	106,743	8,211
2nd quarter	13								
3rd quarter	13								
4th quarter	13								
1976 January	4	56,966	39,432	96,398	24,100	12,051	13,971	26,022	6,506
February	4	68,878	50,913	119,791	29,948	14,468	15,829	30,297	7,574
March	5	84,111	58,499	142,610	28,522	18,459	18,985	37,444	7,489
April	4	54,445	38,281	92,726	23,182	13,209	14,019	27,228	6,807
May	4	76,074	51,169	127,243	31,811	16,122	18,245	34,367	8,592
June	5	75,320	54,227	129,547	25,909	17,179	18,985	36,164	7,233
July	4	56,334	34,350	90,684	22,671	12,389	13,444	25,833	6,458
August	4	32,971	31,801	64,772	16,193	8,871	9,219	18,090	4,523
September	5	56,122	42,082	98,204	19,641	15,470	16,562	32,032	6,406
October	5	82,077	59,240	141,317	28,263	19,947	19,320	39,267	7,853
November	4	67,512	52,863	120,375	30,094	17,922	15,706	33,628	8,407
December	5	57,671	52,111	109,782	21,956	16,467	15,218	31,685	6,337
1977 January r	4	66,199	48,377	114,576	28,644	16,852	16,536	33,388	8,347
February r	4	49,647	41,778	91,425	22,856	15,302	17,049	32,351	8,088
March	5	65,179	47,271	112,450	22,490	19,461	21,543	41,004	8,201

Note: The number of vehicles produced for export shown in these tables differs from the number exported (which is shown in the Overseas Trade Statistics) because of differences in timing and coverage.

Textiles: made-up clothing orders and deliveries in January

In the three months ended January 1977, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 5 per cent higher than in the preceding three months while net new orders were 8 per cent higher. Orders-on-hand at the end of January 1977 were 1 per cent lower than the end-October 1976 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally-adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1969 = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968	107		100		97	
1969	100		97		97	
1970	103		102		100	
1971	119		108		104	
1972	125		110		109	
1973	155		123		117	
1974	145		115		114	
1975	142		118		115	
1976 p	133		115		111	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	164	161	111	115	107	108
2nd quarter	171	149	122	113	113	115
3rd quarter	137	143	96	113	115	117
4th quarter	145	145	129	118	122	118
1975 1st quarter	135	139	116	124	116	121
2nd quarter	165	151	133	119	114	112
3rd quarter	129	141	97	114	114	115
4th quarter	142	149	128	117	116	112
1976 1st quarter	126	130	109	113	113	114
2nd quarter	148	135	126	116	106	109
3rd quarter p	122	133	98	116	109	111
4th quarter p	133	140	126	114	116	111
1974 April	171	163	133	122	115	114
May	182	155	134	109	108	113
June	171	149	100	107	117	118
July	156	149	85	113	112	116
August	143	143	86	112	105	118
September	137	143	116	114	129	116
October	142	140	150	115	141	120
November	152	141	153	122	130	118
December	145	145	85	116	96	115
1975 January	138	137	101	119	103	124
February	134	136	121	123	125	122
March	135	139	124	129	120	119
April	148	147	135	112	118	107
May	167	149	147	120	109	115
June	165	151	116	125	114	115
July	145	145	84	112	110	114
August	132	139	84	109	103	117
September	129	141	123	122	128	115
October	135	140	154	118	135	115
November	144	140	138	110	121	110
December	142	149	91	123	92	111
1976 January	129	128	94	111	102	123
February	128	130	115	117	116	113
March	126	130	117	111	119	107
April	132	131	128	117	105	104
May	150	134	149	122	111	118
June	148	135	101	109	103	105
July p	133	134	93	124	106	111
August p	124	130	79	103	98	111
September p	122	133	122	121	123	111
October p	129	134	148	113	130	111
November p	136	132	138	110	120	110
December p	133	140	93	120	98	112
1977 January p	134	133	113	133	108	129

Inquiries: 01-212 0116.

Wholesale textile houses: sales and stocks in February

Sales by wholesale textile houses in February showed an increase of 8 per cent on a year earlier, compared with an increase of 15 per cent in December and a decrease of 1 per cent in January.

The value of stocks at the end of February showed an increase of 9 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Textiles: wholesale sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*−3*	..	..
1967	104	*−5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*−5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1975	147	*1*	..	..
1976	146	*−1*	..	..
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*−3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*−2*
3rd quarter	146	*−1*	193	*−1*
4th quarter	165	*−5*	224	*13*
1976 1st quarter	133	*−8*	234	*7*
2nd quarter	127	*−6*	212	*8*
3rd quarter	149	*2*	204	*6*
4th quarter	176	*8*	228	*2*
1976 February	138	*−11*	227	*6*
March	174	*−1*	234	*7*
April	136	*−9*	208	*7*
May	128	—	217	*2*
June	119	*−9*	212	*8*
July	115	*−8*	221	*6*
August	137	*9*	216	*5*
September	194	*4*	204	*6*
October	184	*−4*	208	*6*
November	169	*−13*	229	*−1*
December	175	*15*	228	*2*
1977 January	85	*−1*	221	*4*
February	148	8	248	*9*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks†
	Feb 1977	Jan-Feb 1977	Feb 1977
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	17	7	16
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	−24	−23	16
Women's underwear	17	19	7
Women's hose and children's socks	31	17	1
Women's millinery	−5	−7	−2
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	21	16	16
Children's wear	2	5	23
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	15	19	3
Gloves	−13	18	1
Piece-goods and nets	39	−4	16
Household textiles	9	7	21
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	4	−1	7
Boots and shoes	30	32	14
Total‡	8	4	9

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Inquiries

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (01-580 2902).

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in May

Information in the table below is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in May. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release	Source
May			
2 Mon	Building society house prices and mortgage advances (1st qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
3 Tues	CBI Industrial Trends Survey (Apr)	PN	CBI
	UK official reserves (Apr)	PN	HM Treasury
	Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of April)	PN	Bank of England
5 Thurs.	Slum clearance (1st qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Housing starts and completions (Mar.)		
	House renovation grants approved (Mar)		
9 Mon	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Mar)	PN	Department of Trade
	Retail sales (Mar – final)	PN	Department of Trade
	Wholesale price index numbers (Apr – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
10 Tues	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Apr)	PN	Department of Industry
	Central government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Apr)	PN	HM Treasury
11 Wed	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Apr)	PN	CLCB
	UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Apr)	PN	Bank of England
12 Thurs	Finished steel consumption and stock changes (1st qtr – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
13 Fri	Usable steel production (Apr)	PN	BSC/BISPA
	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Apr)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
	Building societies receipts and loans (Apr)	PN	BSA
16 Mon	Retail sales (Apr – prov)	PN	Department of Trade
	Turnover of the catering trades (1st qtr)	PN	Department of Industry
17 Tues	Index of industrial production (Mar)	PN	CSO
18 Wed	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Apr)	PN	Department of Employment
	Monthly index of average earnings (Mar)		
19 Thurs	Building societies: mortgage survey, 5 per cent sample survey results (1st qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Apr)	PN	Bank of England
	London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Apr)	PN	Bank of England
	Consumers' expenditure (1st qtr – 2nd preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
20 Fri	Retail prices index (Apr)	PN	Department of Employment
22 Sun	National Savings monthly progress report (Apr)	PN	National Savings Committee
23 Mon	Turnover of the motor trades (1st qtr)	PN	Department of Industry
	New vehicle registrations (Apr)	PN	Department of Transport
	Preliminary estimate of gross domestic product based on output data (1st qtr)	PN	CSO
24 Tues	Construction – new orders (Mar)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Unemployment (May – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
	Unfilled vacancies (May – prov)		
25 Wed	Bricks and cement production (Apr)	PN	Department of the Environment
26 Thurs	Car and commercial vehicle production (Apr – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (1st qtr – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (1st qtr – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy
	Unemployment (Apr – final)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Employment in production industries (Mar)		
	Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Mar)		
	Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Apr)		
27 Fri	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Feb)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry

PN = Press notice

Business monitors

The following titles and issues of Business Monitors are now available:

Production series

Monthly at £3.06 each per year post free:

PM 423 Foam backing, foam laminating and fabric to fabric bonding for February 1977

PM 481 Paper and paper making materials for February 1977

Quarterly at £1.00 each per year post free:

PQ 215 Milk and milk products for fourth quarter 1976

PQ 334 Industrial engines for fourth quarter 1976

PQ 336 Construction and earth moving equipment for fourth quarter 1976

PQ 349.2 Precision chains and other mechanical engineering products for fourth quarter 1976

PQ 417.1 Hosiery and other knitted goods for fourth quarter 1976

PQ 419 Carpets for fourth quarter 1976

1975 Report on the Census of Production (price including postage shown in brackets):

PA 1000 Provisional results (£2.76).

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Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 29 April 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Task Group Three	BR/E 39125/1/5/82	48	27 April	Alpha Films Ltd	Modern Films, Pinewood
Movietone News 2499	BR/E 38860/1/5/82	8	29 April	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Bedmania	EC 39128/1/5/82	80	28 April	Crawford International Film Distributors Ltd	S. E. S. Le Chesnay, Europrodis and Impex Paris
			FOREIGN		
Homebodies	F 39125	96	25 April	Essential Cinema Ltd	Cinema Entertainment Corporation, California
21 Hours At Munich	F 39127	101	28 April	Alpha Films Ltd	Filmways Inc, California
Freaky Friday	F 39129	98	28 April	Walt Disney Productions Ltd	Walt Disney Productions, California

Film exhibitors' 1976 quota returns

Returns of films exhibited in 1976 have now been examined by the Department of Trade. A total of 136 quota films (64 British and 72 community) of a playing time of more than 72 minutes were registered during the year, compared with 128 (69 British and 59 community) quota films registered in 1975. In addition, in 1976 one entry in the film register relating to foreign films having a playing time of more than 72 minutes, was amended to show that the film concerned was a community film.

The average proportion of quota films exhibited at all cinemas for first features and for the supporting programme was above the prescribed level. The proportion of quota films exhibited as first features, 38.4 per cent, compared with the previous year's achievement of 40.6 per cent. The figure for the supporting programme, 42.3 per cent, compared with 43.3 per cent in 1975.

Of the 1,285 cinemas covered, 92 per cent achieved or exceeded their first feature quotas (against 96 per cent in 1975), and 98 per cent their supporting programmes quota as in the previous year. A large proportion of the quota failures involved only a small margin of failure.

British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 26 March 1977:

	£
Distributors' earnings submitted	
Low Cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	49,694
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	51,802
	101,496
High-cost films (including Newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	541,274
	642,770
Films Under 3,000 ft. (after multipyling by 2½)	74,427
	717,197
Levy Collections paid to the agency by HM Customs and Excise to 5 April 1977 including an estimate of Collections approximately covering entertainments for the four weeks ended 26 March 1977	453,000

The fifth interim allocation for the twentieth year will be at the rate of 43 per cent.

Index to statistics published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

(a) annually (m) monthly (q) quarterly

Air transport: trade by air (a) 16 Jul 76
Balance of payments
current account (m) 22 Apr 77
trends in invisibles 29 Apr 77
see also Overseas trade of the UK
Business names and limited partnerships (a) 18 Feb 77
Capital expenditure:
manufacturing, distributive and service industries (q) 1 Apr 77
by regions 18 Feb 77
Catering trades turnover (q) 18 Feb 77
Census of production (a) 28 Jan 77
Chemicals industry activity (q) 1 Apr 77
Companies
acquisitions and mergers (q) 11 Feb 77
insolvencies This week
liquidity (q) 11 Mar 77
new registrations:
Gt. Britain (m) 22 Apr 77
N. Ireland (m) 4 Mar 77
rate of return on capital (a) 8 Oct 76
structure of company financing 4 Feb 77
Construction work overseas (a) 15 Oct 76
EEC economic indicators *see* Foreign trade
Energy trends (m) 15 Apr 77
Engineering industries:
sales and orders (m) 29 Apr 77
Film industry
British Film Fund Agency returns (m) This week
cinema admissions and takings (m) 29 Apr 77
exhibitors quota returns (a) This week
overseas payments and earnings (a) 20 Aug 76
registrations of films (a) 4 Feb 77
Food
consumption levels (6m) 25 Mar 77
household consumption (q) 18 Mar 77
Footwear industry:
production, orders and deliveries (m) 22 Apr 77
Foreign exchange: official reserves (m) This week
Foreign trade: industrial countries' economic indicators (q and m) This week
see also Overseas trade of the UK
Hire-purchase business (m) 8 Apr 77
Industrial production
index numbers (m) 22 Apr 77
Scotland (q) 25 Mar 77
Wales (q) 28 Jan 77
Insurance companies:
investments and assets (a) 20 Aug 76
Investment
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years) 25 Feb 77
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year) 14 Jan 77
investment and earnings overseas (a) 25 Jun 76
Man-made fibres
deliveries (q) 18 Mar 77
production (m) 15 Apr 77
production: quarterly analysis (q) 18 Mar 77
Metal-working machine tools (m) 29 Apr 77
Motor industry
car and commercial vehicle production (m) This week
estimated figures (m) 22 Apr 77
motor trade turnover (q) 18 Feb 77
Office development permits (q) 25 Mar 77
Overseas trade of the UK
direct exporters and credit terms (a) 16 Jul 76
analysis of trends (q) 4 Mar & 11 Mar 77
backrun (a) 11 Mar 77
export prospects (q) 18 Mar 77
invoicing in foreign currencies 22 Apr 77
see also Balance of payments
Pension funds: investments and assets (a) 20 Aug 76
Regional development grants (q) 4 Feb 77
Regional selective assistance
monthly summary (m) 18 Mar 77
offers £10,000 or more (q) 22 Apr 77
Research and development expenditure 26 Nov 76
Retail prices index (m) 22 Apr 77
Retail trades
sales (m) 8 Apr 77
provisional figures (m) 22 Apr 77
sales, N. Ireland (m) 25 Feb 77
stocks (m) 22 Apr 77
Royalties: overseas transactions (a) 25 Jun 76
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (a) 9 Jul 76
Steel:
consumption and stocks (q) 1 Apr 77
Stocks
manufacturers' and distributors' (q) 1 Apr 77
manufacturers' (m) 1 Apr 77
retail (m) 22 Apr 77
Television: overseas payments and earnings (a) 20 Aug 76
Textiles
activity in the industry (q) 15 Apr 77
carpet sales (m) 22 Apr 77
cotton industry production (m) 15 Apr 77
hosiery production (m) 22 Apr 77
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (m) This week
wholesale houses' sales and stocks (m) This week
wool exports (q) 18 Mar 77
wool output (m) 15 Apr 77
Tourism
foreign visitor arrivals (m) 8 Apr 77
overseas travel and tourism (q) 29 Apr 77
Wholesale prices
average prices of selected commodities (a) 9 Apr 76
index numbers (m) 22 Apr 77

Organisational information

Commercial representation guide 8 Apr 77
Customs notices of interest to exporters 1 Oct 76
ECGD local offices 10 Dec 76
ECGD lines of credit 1 Apr 77
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Release dates of economic statistics This week
Trade promotions guide 29 Apr 77

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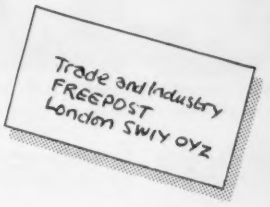

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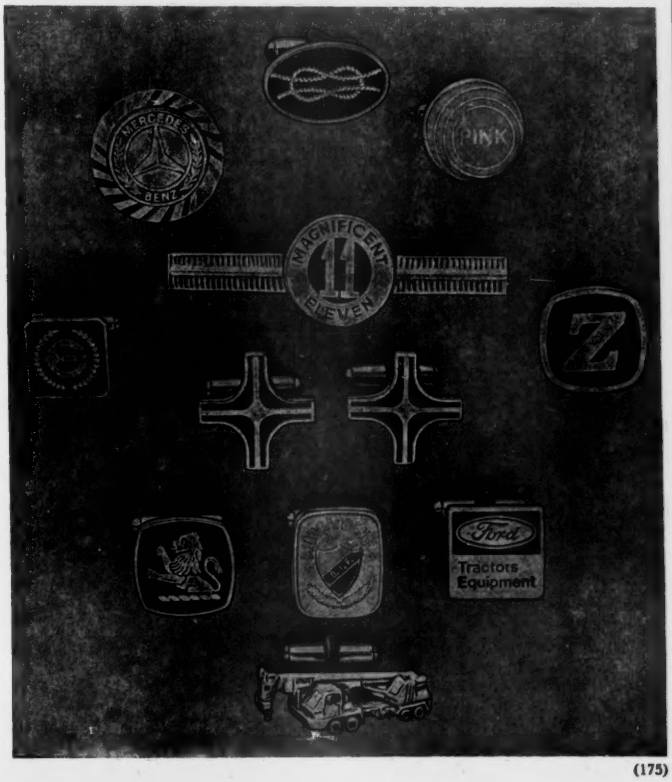

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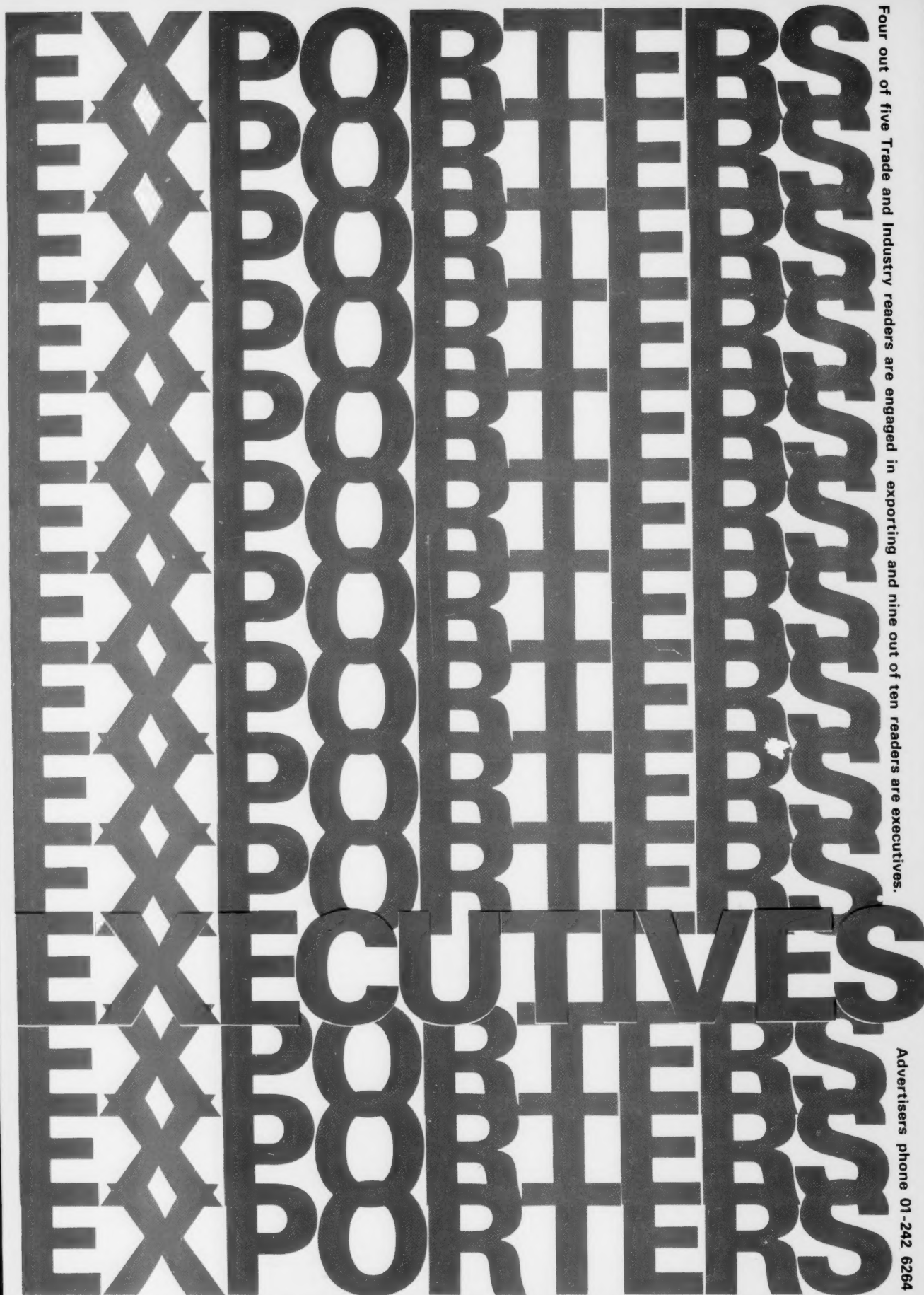

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